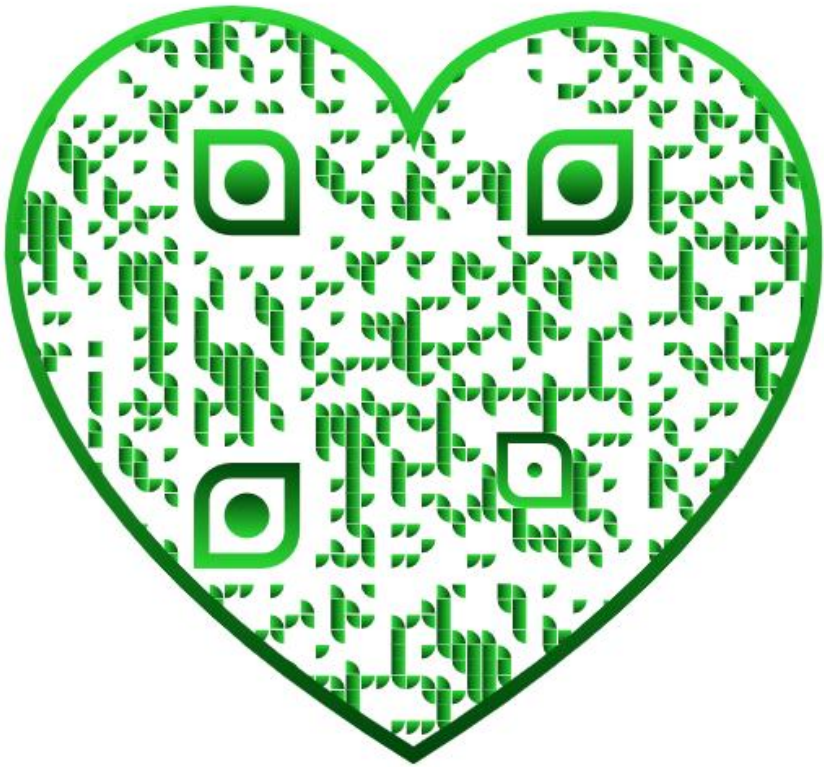
Fun Facts: India

Terry O'Brien



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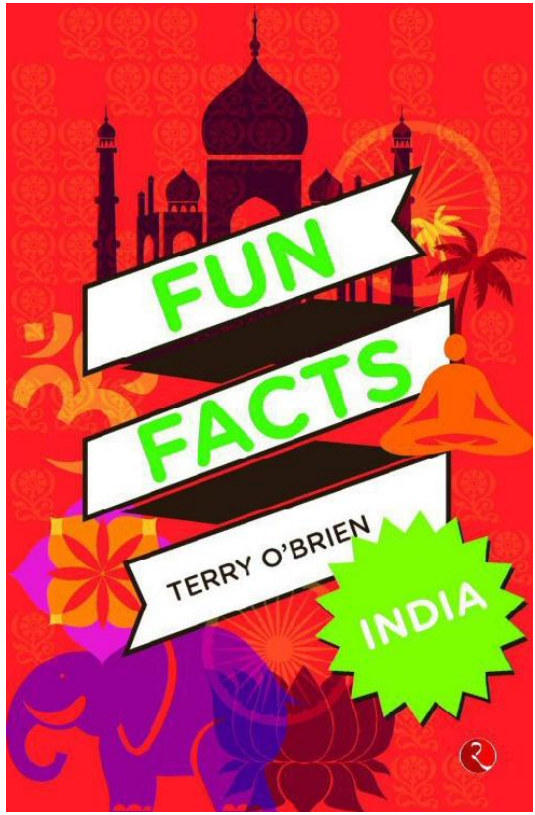
FUN
FACTS
TERRY O'BRIEN
INDIA

FUN FACTS
India

Terry O'Brien is an academician by vocation and a passionate quiz enthusiast by avocation. His leitmotif is the igniting of the quizzing instinct and an aptitude to develop the 3Rs of learning: Read. Record. Recall. He is a trainer's trainer and a motivational speaker who has written several books. His flair for writing and speaking comes naturally to him.

By the same author

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Little Red Book of Antonyms
Little Red Book of Spelling
Little Red Book of Language Checklist

Fun Series

Fun with Numbers

Classic Tales for Children

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Others

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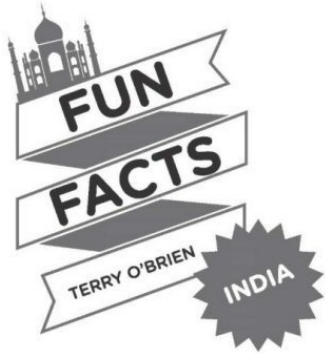

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Introduction

Learning can be fun! Children can learn to make sense of the world around them. Through fun facts, children can develop social and cognitive skills and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments:

- Fun Facts must be pleasurable and enjoyable.
- Fun Facts must have no extrinsic goals; there is no prescribed learning that must occur.
- Fun Facts is spontaneous and voluntary.
- Fun Facts involves active engagement on the part of the reader.
- Fun Facts involve an element of make-believe.

'Edutainment' is a new approach for all to enjoy information that is around us but is often missed by most. This involves both play and work. There are differences between play and work. Play is mostly a self-chosen activity by the child, rather than prescribed by a parent or teacher; it is a process, rather than a predicted outcome or product. Work, on the other hand, has a definite intent and a prescribed outcome.

The Fun Facts series is compiled on a strong internally based motivation for playing. If parents and educators try to label experiences as play, but in reality have specific requirements for the activity, then it becomes work not play. Play is not wasted time, but rather time spent building new knowledge from previous experience.

There is a strong link between play and learning for young children, especially in the areas of problem solving, language skills, literacy, social, physical, and emotional skills. Young children actively explore their environment and the world around them through learning-based play. Play is a vital part of a child's optimal social, cognitive, physical and emotional development. Indeed Fun Facts provides a strong foundation for creativity, problem-solving and basic quest for knowledge. Through Fun Facts, children learn a set of skills.

There is indeed a positive co-relation between play and children's learning. Thus, we have edutainment! The true value of edutainment is not that it can teach children facts, but that it can help them acquire important procedural knowledge, which is beneficial in acquiring declarative knowledge.

Today is a world of information boom. So we are ready for Infotainment, combining information with entertainment.

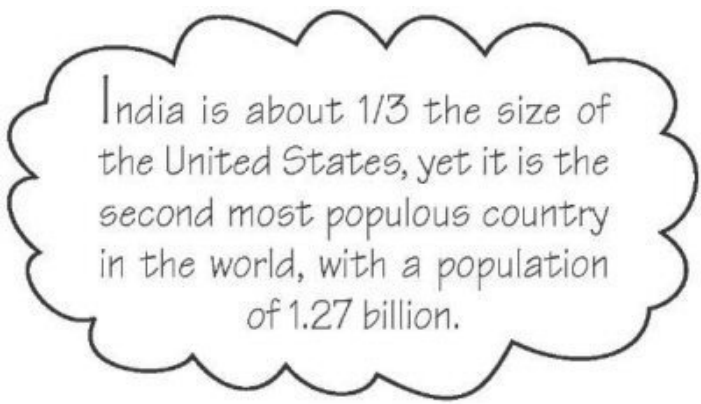
Happy reading!

FUN FACTS: INDIA

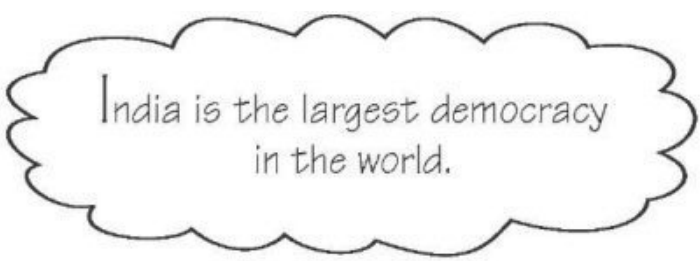
INDIA

The official name of **India** is the Republic of India. The name India derives from the River Indus, which most likely is derived from the Sanskrit 'sindhu', meaning river. The official Sanskrit name of India is Bharat, after the legendary king in the epic Mahabharata.

POTPOURRI

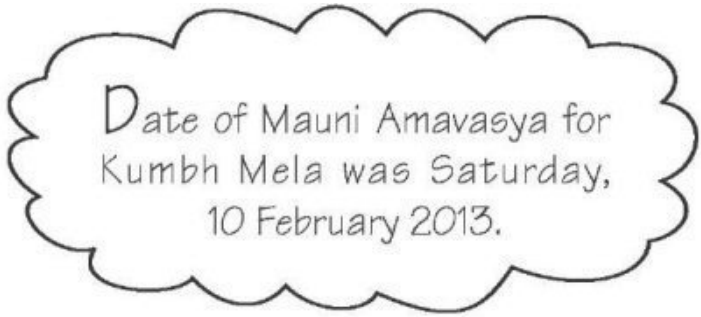

India is about 1/3 the size of the United States, yet it is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of 1.27 billion.

India is the seventh largest country in the world, at 2973190.0 (sq. km).

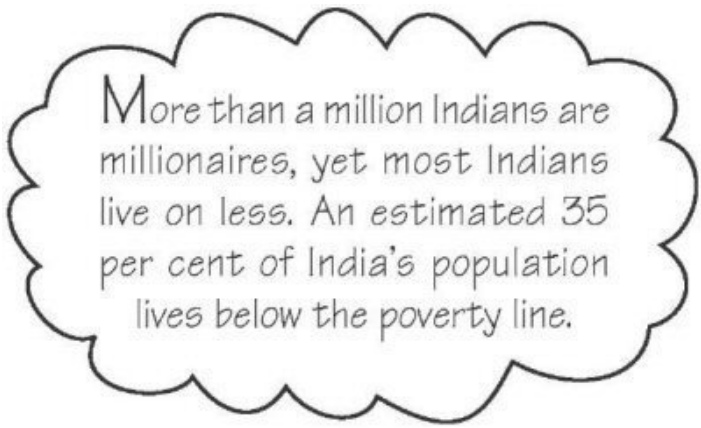


The Kumbh Mela (or Grand Pitcher Festival) is a huge Hindu religious festival that takes place in India every twelve years. In 2001, over sixty million people attended, breaking the record for

the world's biggest gathering.



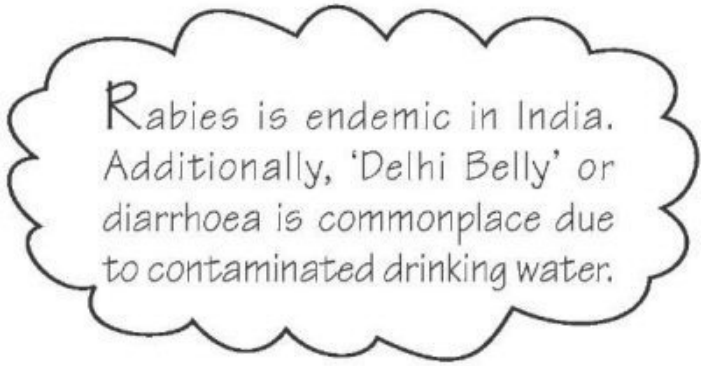
India has one of the world's highest rates of abortion.


More than a million Indians are millionaires, yet most Indians live on less. An estimated 35 per cent of India's population lives below the poverty line.

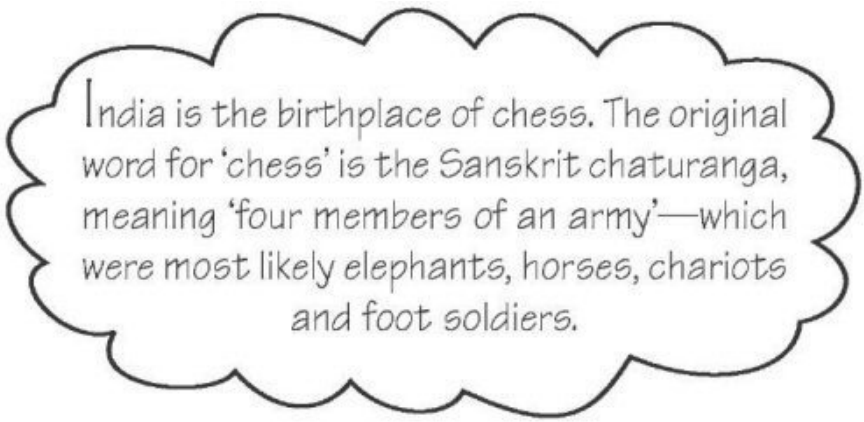
Currently, there are 63,868,420 Facebook Monthly Active Users (MAU) in India, which makes it #3 in the ranking of all Facebook statistics by a country.

Social networking statistics show that Facebook penetration in India is 5.44 per cent compared to the country's population and 69.54 per cent in relation to number of Internet users. The total number of MAU in India grew by more than 4411320 in the last six months. MAU measures the number of people who have been active on Facebook during a thirty-day-period.

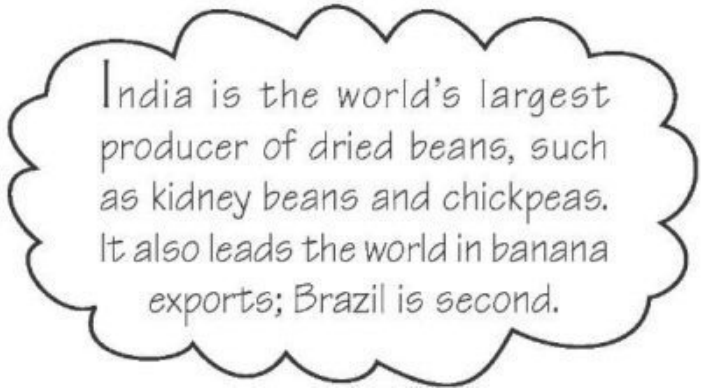
Cows are considered sacred and will often wear a tilak, a Hindu symbol of good fortune. Cows are considered one of humankind's seven mothers because they offer milk as does one's natural mother.



Many Indian wives will never say their husband's name aloud, as it is a sign of disrespect. When addressing him, the wife will use several indirect references, such as 'ji' or 'look here' or 'hello,' or even refer to him as the father of her child.


India is the birthplace of chess. The original word for 'chess' is the Sanskrit chaturanga, meaning 'four members of an army'—which were most likely elephants, horses, chariots and foot soldiers.

The earliest cotton in the world was spun and woven in India. Roman emperors would wear delicate cotton from India that they would call 'woven winds.' Moghul emperors called the fabric 'morning dew' and 'cloth of running water.'


India is the world's largest producer of dried beans, such as kidney beans and chickpeas. It also leads the world in banana exports; Brazil is second.

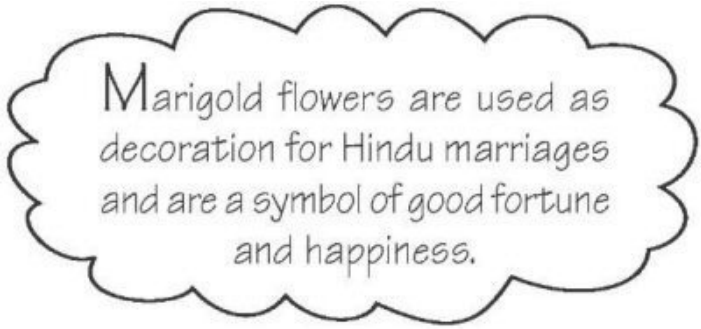
With 150,000 post offices, India has the largest postal network in the world. However, it is not unusual for a letter to take two weeks to travel just 30 miles.

In India, grasping one's ears signifies repentance or sincerity.

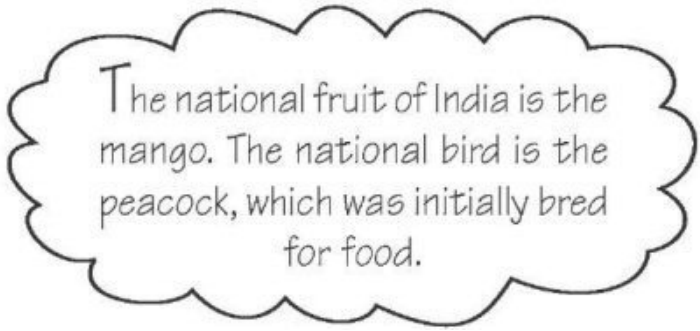
About 80 per cent of Indians are Hindu. Muslims are the largest minority in India and form approximately 13 per cent of the country's population. In fact, India has the third largest population of Muslims in the world, after Indonesia and Pakistan.

The lotus is sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists. The Bahá'í house of worship in Delhi, known as the Lotus Temple, is shaped like a lotus flower with twenty-seven gigantic 'petals' that are covered in marble.

The banyan, or Indian fig tree, is considered a symbol of immortality and is mentioned in many Indian myths and legends. This self-renewing plant is India's national tree.

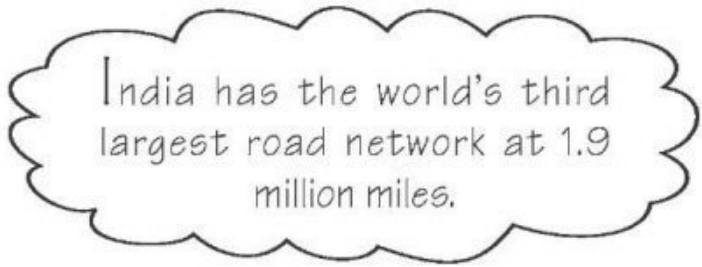


Indians made significant contributions to calculus, trigonometry, and algebra. The decimal system was invented in India in 100 BC. The concept of zero as a number is also attributed to India.

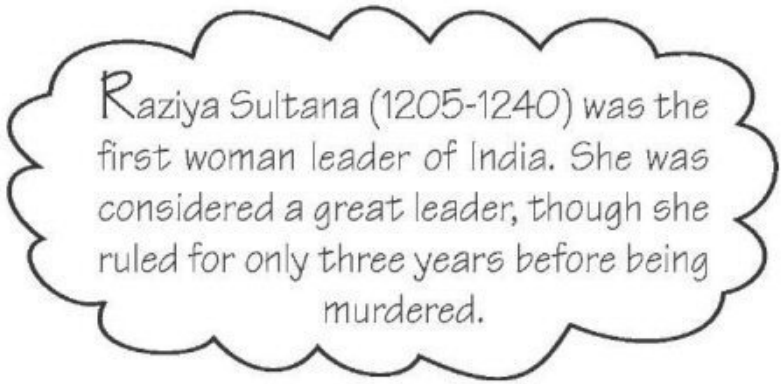


Hindi and English are the official languages of India. The government also recognizes seventeen other languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Nepali, Manipuri, Konkani, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu). Apart from these languages, about 1,652 dialects are spoken in the country.

India is the largest milk producing country in the world.



India also has the world's second largest rail network, which is the world's largest civilian employer with 16 million workers.


Raziya Sultana (1205-1240) was the first woman leader of India. She was considered a great leader, though she ruled for only three years before being murdered.

All of India is under a single time zone.

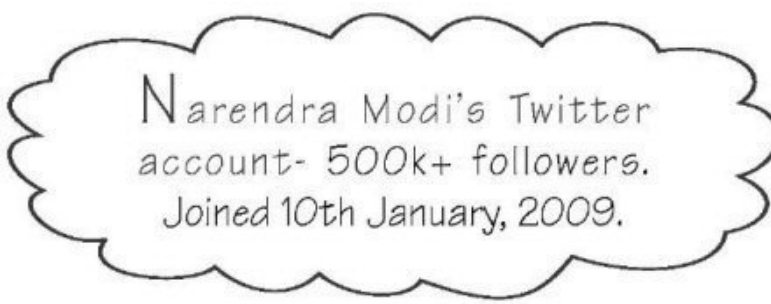
India is the world's largest tea producer, and tea (chai) is its most popular beverage.

Chandragupta Maurya (340-290 BC), a leader in India who established the Mauryan Empire (321-185 BC), was guarded by a band of women on horseback.

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964), was featured in *Vogue* for his distinctive close fitting, single-breasted jacket. Named the Nehru jacket, the prime minister's coat was popularized by the Beatles.

POLITICIANS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Narendra Modi's official Facebook Page- Likes-459,445/Talking about this-28,157.



GANDHI FAMILY ON FACEBOOK

Rahul Gandhi-Likes-146k/Talking about this-4,002.

Sonia Gandhi- Likes-77,381/Talking about this-1,537.

Akhilesh Yadav's official page Like- 58,115, Talking about this-4,499. Engagement level high. There is another unofficial page of Akhilesh Yadav with more than 13k fans.

Nitish Kumar-There are two unofficial pages of Nitish Kumar and both have fans above 10K.

Sushma Swaraj is another politician having more than 20k fans on her unofficial page, clearly way ahead of Sheila Dikshit in the social world.

INDIAN MEDIA

India has 44.21 million private DTH subscribers as of 31 December 2011, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India said in its quarterly report.

The total number of registered subscribers is from the six private direct-to-home operators - Dish TV, Tata Sky, Airtel Digital TV, Videocon D2H, Reliance Digital TV and Sun Direct.

The total number of registered newspapers: 82,237. The number of new newspapers registered during 2010-11 stood at 4,853. The percentage of growth for registered publications over the previous year was 6.25 per cent.

The highest number of newspapers published in Hindi (7,910), followed by English (1,406), Urdu (938), Gujarati (761), Telugu (603), Marathi (521), Bengali (472), Tamil (272), Oriya (245), Kannada (200) and Malayalam (192).

NICKNAMES OF POLITICIANS OF TODAY

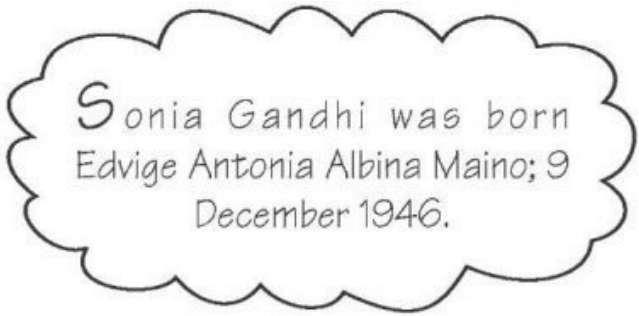
Mona, **Manmohan Singh's nickname.**

Nitish **Kumar's nickname** is Munna.

Rahul **Gandhi's nickname** is RG in political circles.

Rahul **Gandhi's nicknames:** Asaram Bapu calls him *Babloo.* Sharad Yadav calls him *Naya Babua.* V.S. Achuthanandan calls him *Amul Baby.*

MORE FUN FACTS

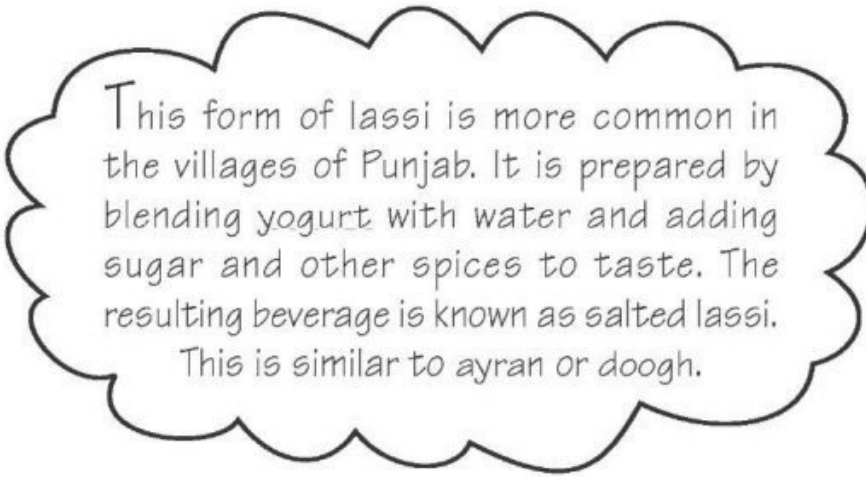


Arackaparambil Kurien Antony is AK Antony.

Jayalalithaa Jayaram is commonly referred to as Jayalalithaa; She is called Amma (Mother) and sometimes Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader) by her followers.

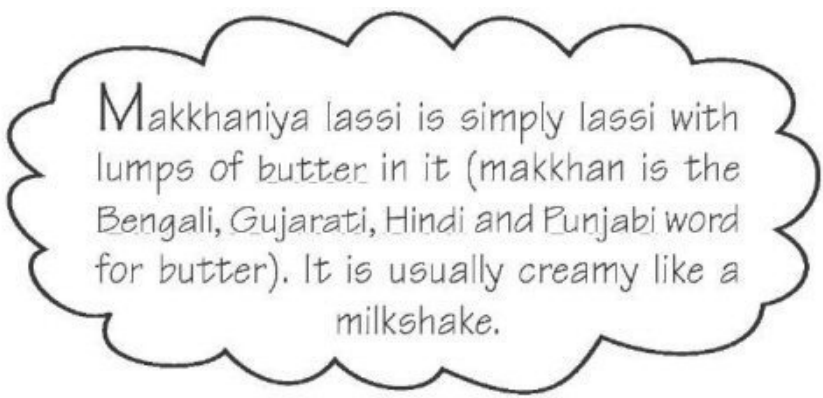
LASSI

Traditional mild sweet lassi.


This form of lassi is more common in the villages of Punjab. It is prepared by blending yogurt with water and adding sugar and other spices to taste. The resulting beverage is known as salted lassi. This is similar to ayran or doogh.

SWEET LASSI

Sweet lassi is a form of lassi flavoured with sugar, rosewater and/or lemon, strawberry or other fruit juices. Saffron lassis, which are particularly rich, are a specialty of Sindh in Pakistan, and Jodhpur and Rajasthan in India.


Makkhaniya lassi is simply lassi with lumps of butter in it (makkhan is the Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi and Punjabi word for butter). It is usually creamy like a milkshake.

MANGO LASSI

Mango lassi is gaining popularity worldwide. It is made from yogurt, water and mango pulp. It may be made with or without additional sugar. It is widely available in UK, Malaysia and Singapore and in many other parts of the world. In various parts of Canada, mango lassi is a cold drink consisting of sweetened kesar mango pulp mixed with yogurt, cream, or ice cream. It is served in a tall glass

with a straw, often with ground pistachio nuts sprinkled on top.

BHANG LASSI

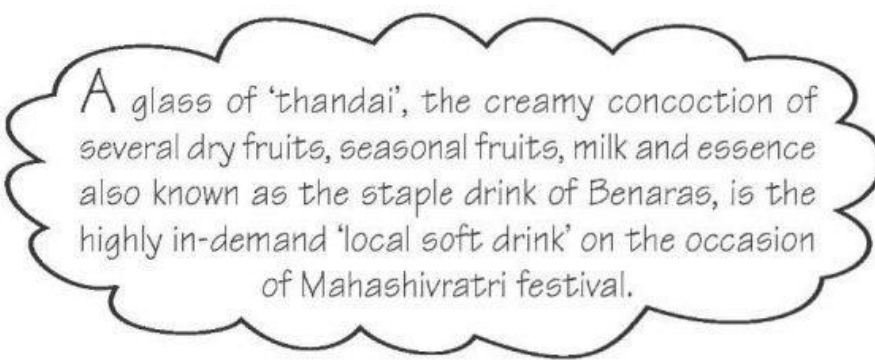
Bhang (or bhung) lassi is a special lassi that contains *bhang,* a liquid derivative of cannabis (marijuana), which has effects similar to other eaten forms of cannabis. It is legal in many parts of India and mainly sold during Holi, when pakoras containing bhang are also sometimes eaten. Rajasthan is known to have licensed bhang shops, and in many places, one can buy bhang products and drink bhang lassis.

CHAAS

Chaas or chaach is a salted drink like lassi; however, chaas contains more water than lassi and has the butter fat removed, so its consistency is not as thick as lassi. Salt and jeera (cumin seeds) are normally added for taste and sometimes even fresh coriander. Fresh ground ginger & green chillies may also be added as seasoning.

Chaas is popular in Gujarat and Rajasthan, where it is drunk with the main meal. It is known to aid digestion and is an excellent coolant in the Indian and Pakistani summers. It is called majjige in Kannada, taak in Marathi, majjiga in Telugu and moru in Tamil and Malayalam.

THANDAI


A glass of 'thandai', the creamy concoction of several dry fruits, seasonal fruits, milk and essence also known as the staple drink of Benaras, is the highly in-demand 'local soft drink' on the occasion of Mahashivratri festival.

GHATS IN VARANASI

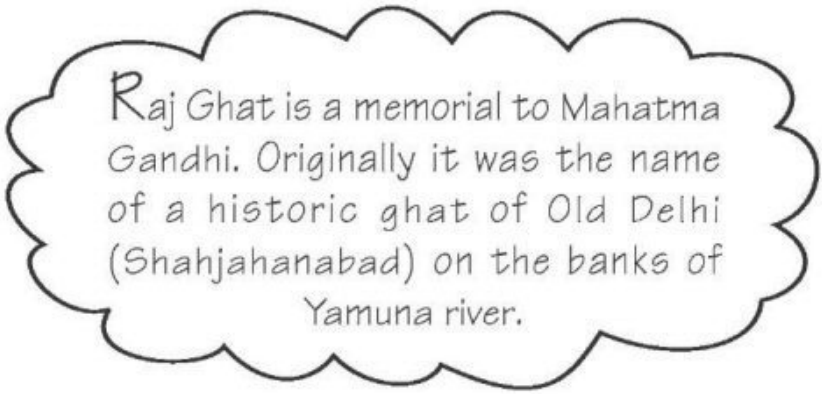
Varanasi has nearly 100 ghats, steps leading to the banks of River Ganga. Many of the ghats were built when the city was under Maratha control. Marathas, Shindes (Scindias), Holkars, Bhonsles, and Peshwes (Peshwas) stand out as patrons of present-day Varanasi. Most of the ghats are bathing ghats, while others are used as cremation sites. Many ghats are associated with legends or mythologies while many ghats are privately owned. The former Kashi Naresh owns *Shivala* or *Kali* ghat.

Dashashwamedh Ghat is located close to Vishwanath Temple, and is probably the most spectacular ghat. Two Hindu mythologies are associated with it: According to one, Lord Brahma created it to welcome Lord Shiva. According to another, Lord Brahma sacrificed 10 horses in a yajna here. A group of priests perform daily in the evening at this ghat 'Agni Pooja' (Worship to Fire) wherein a dedication is made to Lord Shiva, River Ganga, Surya (Sun), Agni (Fire), and the whole universe.

MANIKARNIKA GHAT

Two legends are associated with Manikarnika Ghat. According to one, it is believed to be the place where Lord Vishnu dug a pit with his chakra and filled it with his perspiration while performing various penances. While Lord Shiva was watching Lord Vishnu at that time, the latter's earring ('manikarnika') fell into the pit. According to the second legend, in order to keep Lord Shiva from moving around with his devotees, his consort Goddess Parvati hid her earrings, and asked him to find them, saying that they had been lost on the banks of the Ganga. Goddess Parvati's idea behind the fib was that Lord Shiva would then stay around, searching forever.

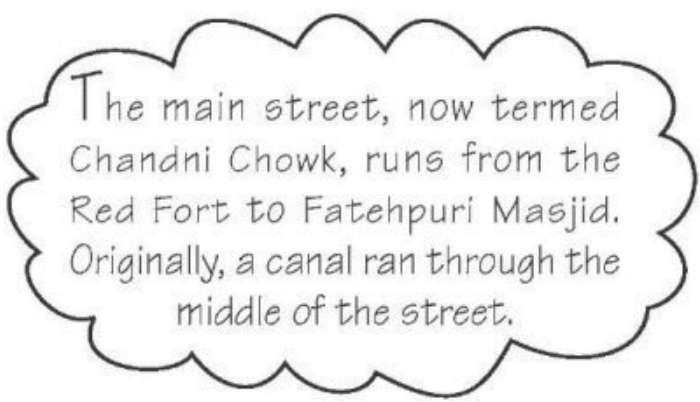
RAJ GHAT IN DELHI


Raj Ghat is a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. Originally it was the name of a historic ghat of Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad) on the banks of Yamuna river.

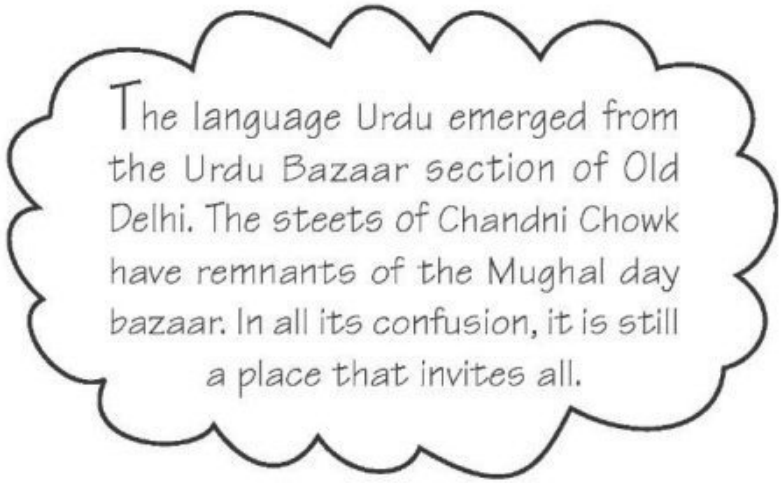
Close to Raj Ghat, east of Daryaganj was 'Raj Ghat Gate' of the walled city, opening at Raj Ghat on Yamuna river. Later, the memorial area was also called Raj ghat. It is a black marble platform that marks the spot of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation, Antyesti (Antim Sanskar) on 31 January 1948, a day after his assassination. It is left open to the sky while an eternal flame burns perpetually at one end.

OLD CITY OF DELHI

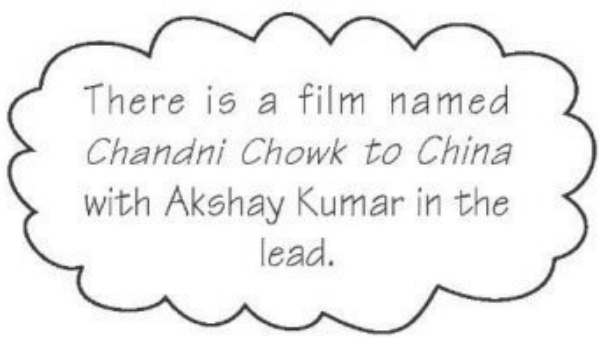
Old Delhi (*Purani Dilli*), walled city of Delhi, India, was founded as **Shahjahanabad** by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in 1639. It remained the capital of the Mughals until the end of the Mughal dynasty. It was once filled with mansions of nobles and members of the royal court, along with elegant mosques and gardens. Today it still serves as the symbolic heart of Islamic metropolitan Delhi.


The main street, now termed Chandni Chowk, runs from the Red Fort to Fatehpuri Masjid. Originally, a canal ran through the middle of the street.

North of the street, there is the mansion of Begum Samru, now called Bhagirath Palace. South is the street Dariba, a dense residential area, beyond which is Jama Masjid. Daryaganj is a section that used to border the river at Raj ghat and Zeenat-ul-Masjid.


The language Urdu emerged from the Urdu Bazaar section of Old Delhi. The steets of Chandni Chowk have remnants of the Mughal day bazaar. In all its confusion, it is still a place that invites all.

Chandni Chowk is famous for the Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib and sweets and halwa in shops such as Ghantewala Halwai. If ever one wants to try a variety of parathas a visit to parathewali gali will be exciting!



Chandni Chowk, often called the food capital of India, is famous for its street food. The variety consists of **snacks, especially chaat.** Chandni Chowk resembles a fair every day. The streets are lined with **halwais** (sweet-sellers), **namkeenwallahs** (sellers of savouries) and **paranthewallahs** (sellers of rich, flaky breads soaked in ghee).

COSTUMES IN INDIA

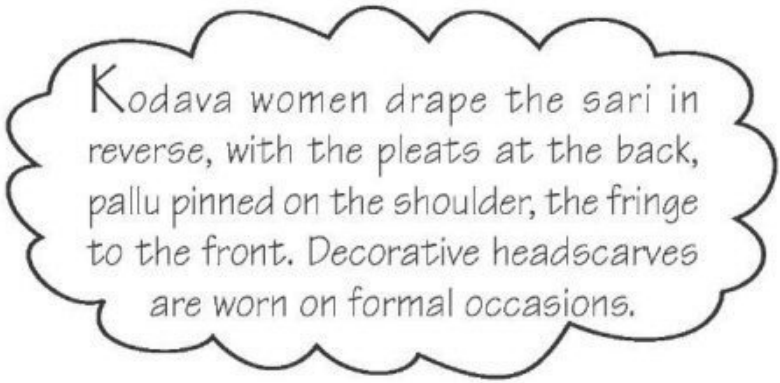
Famous Costumes of India: sari, ghaghra choli, salwar kameez, kurtas, lungis, dhotis. Traditional Indian costumes: lehenga choli, sherwani Common female dressing: salwar kameez, saris.

Kerala Costumes: The traditional dress forms are the 'Mundu and Neriathu' (a white piece of cloth with golden zari border symbolizing royalty) for men; and 'sari' (a 5-6 metres long piece of cloth embroidered with golden border) with jacket for women.

COSTUMES IN KARNATAKA

The main dress of the men is a 'lungi' worn below the waist beneath a shirt. A 'angavastram', a silk or cotton muffler is sported on the neck covering the shoulders. Women invariably wear saris, the unstitched piece of cloth used to drape the body.

The Kodavas or the people of Kodagu have their own distinct dresses. The men wear their native costume with pride, resplendent with ornamental sashes, swords and daggers, black robes or tunics and gold-trimmed turbans for festivals or weddings.


Kodava women drape the sari in reverse, with the pleats at the back, pallu pinned on the shoulder, the fringe to the front. Decorative headscarves are worn on formal occasions.

COSTUMES OF MAHARASHTRA

In Maharashtra, men wear dhoti and shirt with a head dress known as the pheta, and women wear sari with a short-sleeved choli (blouse). The sari is 9m long and is worn tucked between the legs.

The dhoti is a fine cotton cloth of about two and half to three metres long, with or without borders on both the sides. The head dress is a folded cap of cotton, silk or woollen fabric, or a freshly folded turban known as 'Rumal', 'Patka' or 'Pheta'. The pre-formed turban known as 'Pagadi' is now rarely to be seen. Sometimes a waistcoat or jacket known as 'Bandi' is also worn over a shirt.

Maharashtrian women wear the Maratha Sari (sari) of nine yards and a short-sleeved choli (blouse) covering only about half the length of the back. The nine-yard Sari is generally worn by elderly ladies and is known as 'Lugade' or Sari in Marathi.

Saris of five or six yards in length have now become fashionable among young ladies in the urban centres. These are worn cylindrically over a Parkar or Ghagara also called petticoat.

It is 45 to 42 inches in width and it has two lengthwise borders Kanth or Kinar, and also two Breadthwise borders, Padar, at the two ends, of which one is more decorated than the other. The mode of wearing the Lugade by Maratha Brahmans and other classes is with the hind pleats tucked into the waist at the back-centre and the decorated end (padar) thrown over the left shoulder. Maratha ladies allow it to hang from the waist down straight and round like a skirt and draw its end, which covers the bosom and back over the head.

A reversion to new type of cholis in the form of blouses with low cut necks and close-fitting sleeves up to the elbow is noticed nowadays.

JEWELLERY

Maharashtrian women wear traditional jewellery patterns of the Marathas and Peshwas. The Kolhapuri Saaj, a special type of necklace, is very popular with Maharashtrian women. The saaj is designed all over Maharashtra but the Kolhapuri Saaj is famous.

Patlya (two broad bangles), Bangdya (four simple bangles) and Tode (two finely carved thick bangles) are the typical jewellery on the hands of women from this western state.

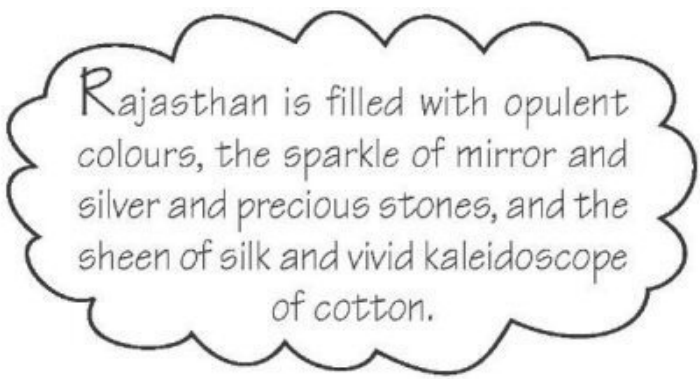
The Maharashtrians are fond of pearls too. Chinchpeti (choker), Tanmani (short necklace) and Nath (nose ring) are a combination of pearls and red and white stones. The Bajuband (the amulet) is also a favourite. Flower-shaped earrings are liked by the people here.

COSTUMES OF TAMIL NADU

The traditional Tamilian woman prefers to drape her heavy Kanchipuram sari (also spelt as sari) around herself, the lower part of the calf uncovered, the extra bit of pallu created thereby wound around her waist. What is striking about her is that she wears the most gorgeous of Kanchipuram sari in the most casual way; its like she's dressed to go to a wedding every day.

In Tamil Nadu, men are usually seen dressed in a lungi along with a shirt and angavastra. The traditional lungi originated in South India and it is simply a short length of material worn around the thighs like a sarong. A dhoti is a longer lungi but with an additional length of material pulled up between the legs.

COSTUMES OF RAJASTHAN


Rajasthan is filled with opulent colours, the sparkle of mirror and silver and precious stones, and the sheen of silk and vivid kaleidoscope of cotton.

Both males and females dress in the customary dresses fully influenced by climate, economy, status and the profession. The traditional dresses being potia, dhoti, banda, angrakha, bugatari, pachewara, khol, dhabla, amongst Hindus; and tilak, burga, achkan amongst Muslims, which are fast changing now with bush shirt, salwar and skirts, saris and pants accordingly.

Turban, the head dress of Rajasthani men, is a differential pattern, of each geographical region designed to suit terrain and climatic influence. All over Rajasthan, the bandhni, the tie-and-dye sari and turban, reign supreme.

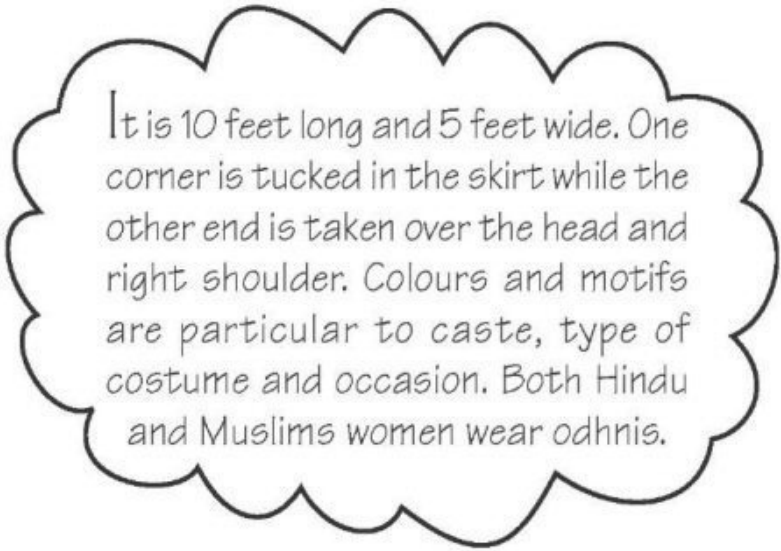
The common dress of the women constitutes (i) sari or odhani, (ii) kanchli or kunchuki or choli (iii) ghaghra or ghaghri or lehenga. Besides, women of high status and ranks wear dupatta and patka.

The turban, variously called pagari, pencha, sela or safa depending on style, an angrakha or achakan as the upper garment and dhoti or pyjama as the lower garment make up the male outfit.

WOMEN'S ATTIRE

The standard design is a four-piece dress which includes the ghagra (skirt), the odhni (head cloth), the kurti (a short blouse) and the kanchi (a long, loose blouse).

Odhni

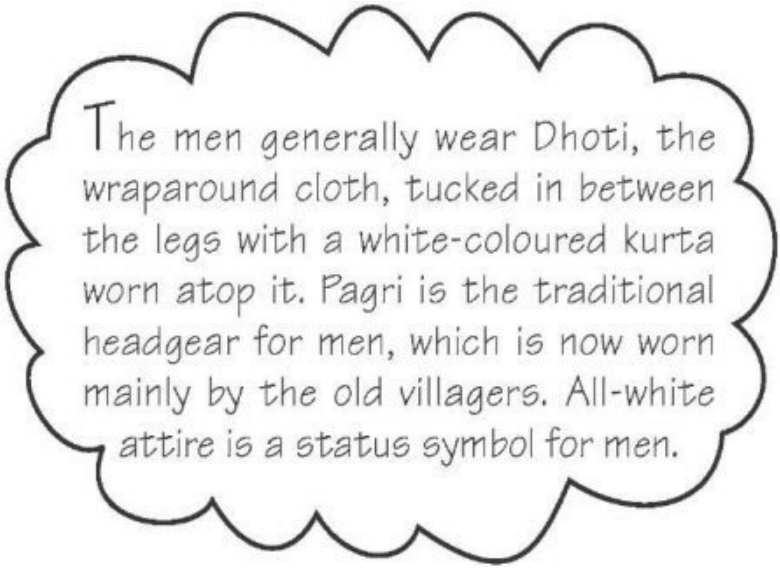

It is 10 feet long and 5 feet wide. One corner is tucked in the skirt while the other end is taken over the head and right shoulder. Colours and motifs are particular to caste, type of costume and occasion. Both Hindu and Muslims women wear odhnis.

Pila

An odhni with a yellow background and a central lotus motif in red called a pila, is a traditional gift by parents to their daughter on the birth of a son. The vibrant and colourful land of Rajasthan, with hospitable and well-attired men and women, add a splash of colour to the otherwise parched landscape.

COSTUMES OF HARYANA

Women love to wear colourful dresses. Their basic trousseau includes damaan, kurti & chunder. chunder is a long, coloured piece of cloth, decorated with shiny laces, meant to cover the head and is drawn in the front like the pallav of the sari. Kurti is a shirt like blouse, usually white in colour. The daaman is the ankle-long skirt, in striking colours.


The men generally wear Dhoti, the wraparound cloth, tucked in between the legs with a white-coloured kurta worn atop it. Pagri is the traditional headgear for men, which is now worn mainly by the old villagers. All-white attire is a status symbol for men.

COSTUMES OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Kashmir becomes more colourful with exquisite embroidered work that accompanies their clothes, especially the shawls and pherans, which are embroidered with intricate patterns of multihued threadwork. Up above in Ladakh, the dressing sense has a trans-Himalayan influence in it.

COSTUMES OF GUJARAT

The commonest type of dress worn by males in rural areas consists of cotton drawers called chorno and a short kediyu or angarakhu covering the upper part of the body. Most of the people especially agriculturists still continue to put on the typical head dress, thickly folded phento or turban.

Women in villages put on chaniyo the coloured petticoat often embroidered with abhala or glass pieces, a similarly embroidered blouse or bodice called as choli or polku along with odhani, a coloured piece of coarse cloth covering the body and the head. Elderly males of higher classes put on dhoti (waist cloth) and kafani or peharan (shirt).

COSTUMES OF MANIPUR

The **costumes of Manipur** carry their own unique characteristics. Stressed on its functionality, the traditional Manipuri costumes are simple and easy to wear. A traditional Manipuri costume for women includes a shawl called Innaphi and a Phanek, which is a wrap-around skirt. A Manipuri man wears a dhoti, a jacket and a white pagri or turban. A wrap displays the hues and colours of Manipur women and their love for style!

COSTUMES OF NAGALAND

Out of the numerous unique identities of the Nagas, the most unique traditional items that can be found in almost all of the Naga tribes and that distinctly separate Nagas from the other tribals are the conical red headgear decorated with wild-boar canine teeth and white-black Hornbill feathers, the spear with the shaft decorated with red-black hairs and the unique Dao with broad blade and long handle.

COSTUMES OF ASSAM

COSTUMES OF BODOS

Dresses of the Bodo tribal community is quite exquisite, thereby exhilarating the beauty and glamour of females to a wide extent. Bodos wear the traditional, colourful and home woven beautiful dresses. The conventional dress of a Bodo female is popularly known as dokhna. Men use dhoti and chaddars. In winter, they wear thickly woven endichaddars.

COSTUMES OF KARBIS

The costume wear by the Karbi tribes are very beautiful. The traditional dresses of Karbis are also very durable. The male folk of Karbis generally wear two types of shirts. Costume worn by the aged men are called soinangpo and costume worn by the young men are called saihathor. The man traditionally used a loincloth named rikong. their traditional turban is known as poho.

Karbi women wear a short mekhala or a piece of cloth known as pinicamflak. The upper part of the body is covered by another

piece of cloth named jar-ek. The artistic waistband used by the women is known as wanpo. Karbi women used colourfully embroidered scarf of endi called Kanjari.

COSTUMES OF DIMASA KOCHARIS

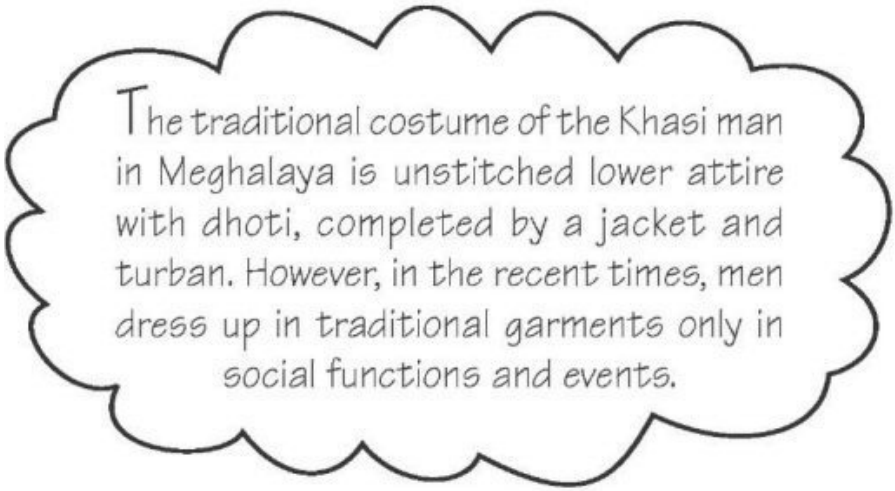
The men and women of the Dimasa tribe used to wear cloths, which are produced in looms of household. A dimasa woman covers herself in a skirt-like attire, known as the as rigu made of silk or endi, topped by an embellished vest-like cloth, called rijamphai. While dancing they used to wear rikhaosa. The costume worn by the dimasa men is deep green in colour named as rica or dhuni. They wear the artistic scarf known as rinsaso. He also attaches on his head a turban woven from pure cotton or endi, which is 19 metres in length. In the Busu festival, the male both young and old wear dhuti.

COSTUMES OF MECH KACHCHARIS

The dresses of Mech people are very simple. They used to wear hand-spun and hand-woven simple dresses. Men wear dhoti, turban and endi shawl or chaddar. Women used to wear dress like Assamese mekhela chaddar but simpler than their Assamese counter parts. Their dresses even during festivals are also simple.

COSTUMES OF MEGHALAYA

In the remote areas of Garo hill villages, the women wrap a short cloth round the waist known as eking. On the other hand, men put on a loincloth. But the Garo women go for a longer version of cotton dress. A Garo woman wears a blouse, and wears a lungilike piece of unstitched cloth called dakmanda, by tying it round the waist.

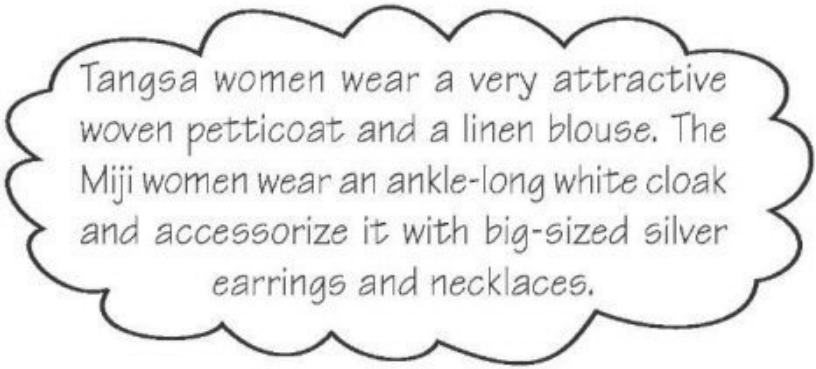

The traditional costume of the Khasi man in Meghalaya is unstitched lower attire with dhoti, completed by a jacket and turban. However, in the recent times, men dress up in traditional garments only in social functions and events.

Meghalaya women love to wear earrings and other golden and silver ornaments. It is a custom to dress in head ornaments, like a silver circlet worn round the head as a forehead decoration.

COSTUMES OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The traditional women dresses of Arunachal Pradesh are in vibrant colours and myriad patterns that instantly give a feel of their tribal culture. There are many tribes here and each have a distinct pattern of clothing. The women of Buddhist Monpas tribe wear a jacket above a sleeveless chemise which is tied to their waists with a lengthy and narrow strip of cloth. They wear a lots of accessories —silver rings, earrings cut from bamboo—bits decorated with beads or turquoise. The women of the Miris tribe wear attractive crinoline made from cane rings which does the function of a blouse. The women of Sherdukpen tribe wear a collarless and sleeveless robe like garment that stretches from the shoulders to

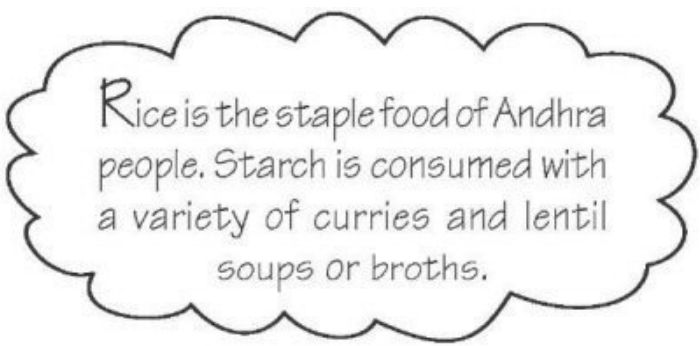
the knees. They also wear a full-sleeved embroidered jacket and a waist cloth which is known as mushaiks.


Tangsa women wear a very attractive woven petticoat and a linen blouse. The Miji women wear an ankle-long white cloak and accessorize it with big-sized silver earrings and necklaces.

CUISINES OF INDIA

ANDHRA PRADESH

Cuisine of Andhra Pradesh is a blend of Telugu cuisine along with Hyderabadi cuisine (also known as Nizami cuisine). The food is rich in spices, for which it is popular among South Indian cuisine.

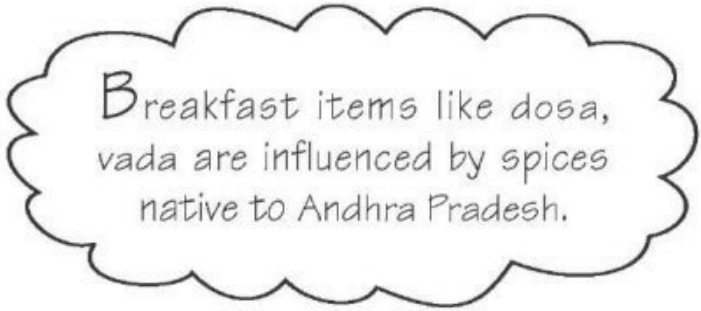


Vegetarian and non-vegetarian foods are both popular. Seafood is common in the coastal region of the state.

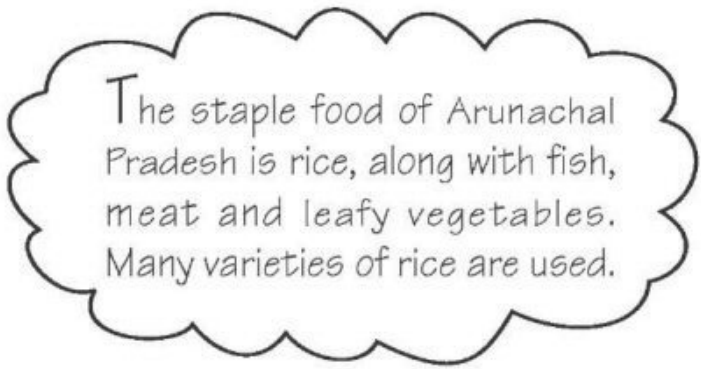
Hyderabadi cuisine includes popular delicacies such as biryani, Hyderabadi haleem, baghara baingan and kheema.

Various pickles are part of local cuisine, popular among those are avakaya (a pickle made from raw mango) and gongura (a pickle made from red sorrel leaves).

Yogurt is a common addition to meals, as a way of tempering spiciness.



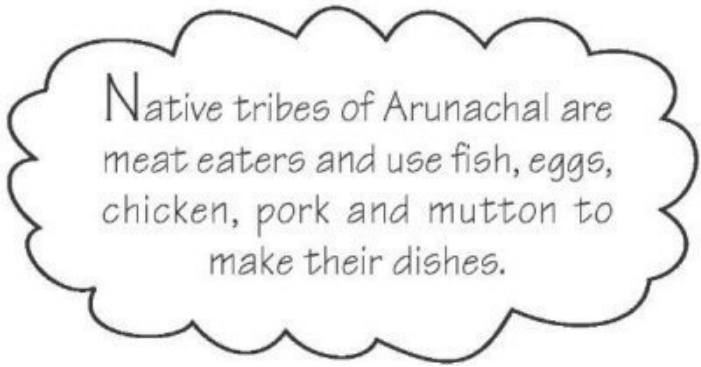
ARUNACHAL PRADESH



Lettuce is the most common vegetable, usually prepared by boiling with ginger, coriander and green chillies.

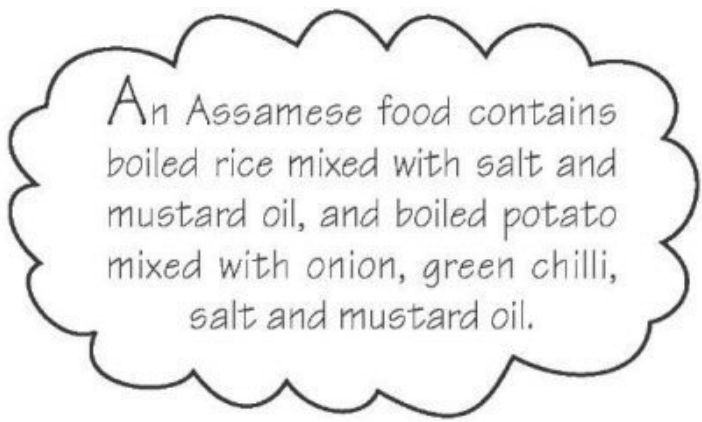
Boiled rice cakes wrapped in leaves are a popular snack.

Thukpa is a kind of noodle soup common among the Monpa tribe of the region.



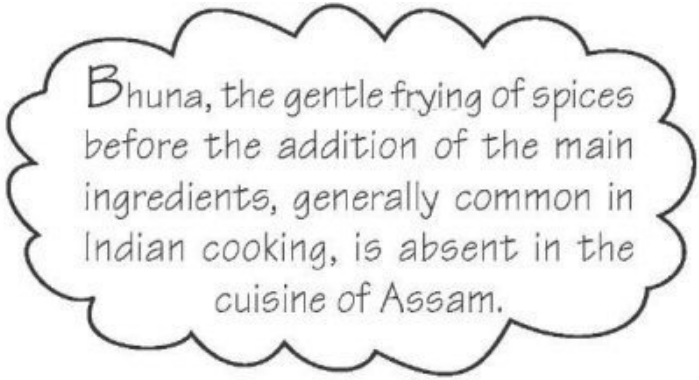
Apong or rice beer made from fermented rice or millet is a popular beverage in Arunachal Pradesh and is consumed as a refreshing drink.

ASSAM

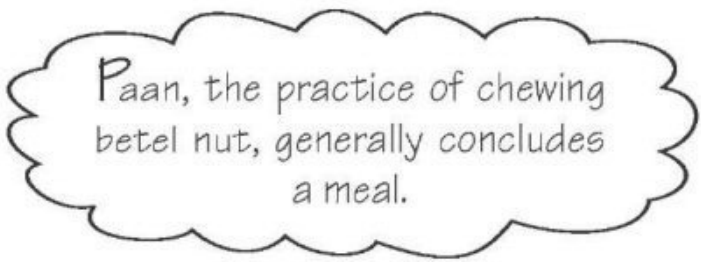

An Assamese food contains boiled rice mixed with salt and mustard oil, and boiled potato mixed with onion, green chilli, salt and mustard oil.

Panta Ilish—a traditional platter of panta bhat with fried *ilish* slice, supplemented with dried fish (shutki), pickles (achar), dal, green chillies, and onion—is a popular dish for the Pohela Boishakh festival.

Assamese cuisine has strong flavours from its use of endemic herbs, fruits, and vegetables served fresh, dried or fermented. Fish is widely eaten. The region's cuisine involves simple cooking processes.


Bhuna, the gentle frying of spices before the addition of the main ingredients, generally common in Indian cooking, is absent in the cuisine of Assam.

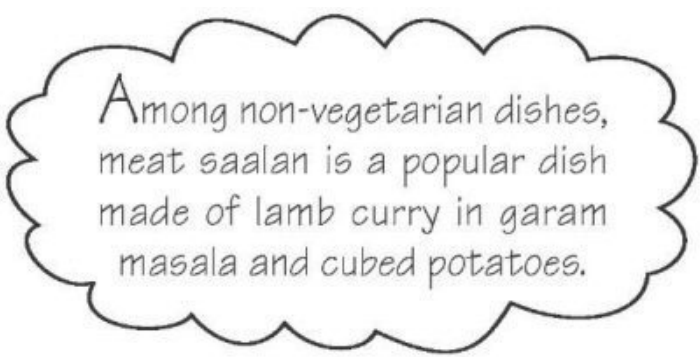
A traditional meal in Assam begins with a khar, a class of dishes named after the main ingredient and ends with a tenga, a sour dish. The food is usually served in bell metal utensils.



BIHAR

Palak paneer, a dish made from spinach and paneer (cottage cheese).

Litti chokha, a baked salted wheat flour cake filled with sattu (baked chickpea flour) and some special spices, is famous among the middle-class families.



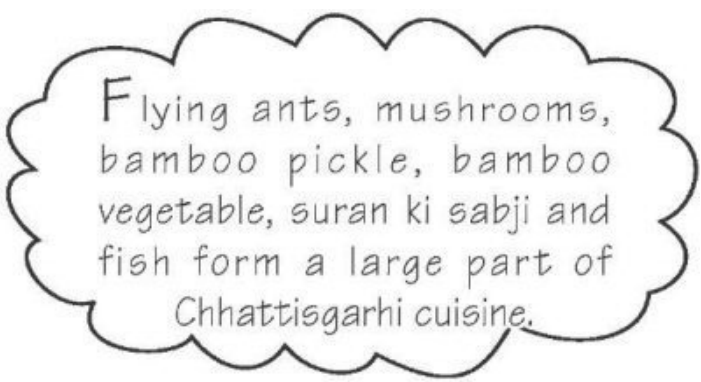
Dalpuri is another popular dish in Bihar. It is salted wheatflour bread, filled with boiled, crushed and fried gram pulses.

Malpua is a popular sweet dish of Bihar, prepared by a mixture of maida, milk, banana, grated coconut, cashew nut, raisin, sugar, water and green cardamom. There is also balushahi which is prepared by a specially treated combination of maida and sugar along with ghee.

During the festival of Chhath, thekua, a sweet dish made of ghee, jaggery, whole-meal flour, flavoured with aniseed, is made.

CHHATTIS GARH

The tribal people of the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh eat whatever is available, including food which would not be eaten by people of other states and regions, such as red ant chutney.

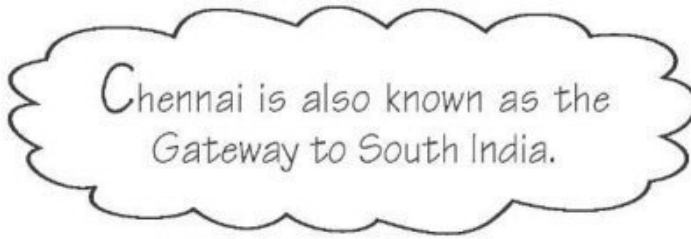

Flying ants, mushrooms, bamboo pickle, bamboo vegetable, suran ki sabji and fish form a large part of Chhattisgarhi cuisine.

CHENNAI

Chennai, the capital city of **Tamil Nadu,** is situated on the

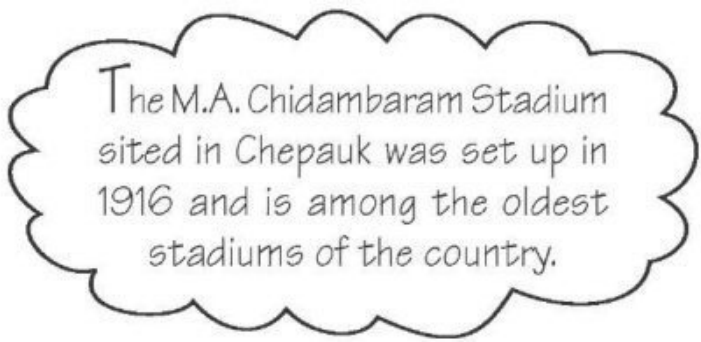
Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal.

The earlier name of the city, Madras, is believed to be originated from Madrasapattinam, a fishing village located north of the St. George Fort.



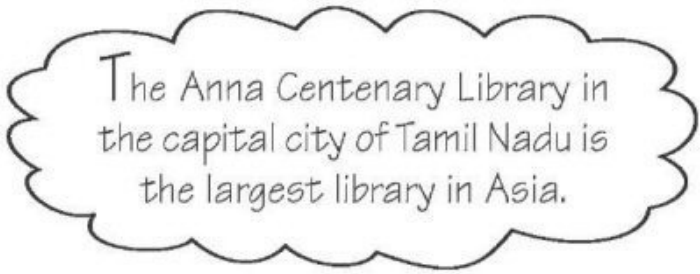
The Tidel Park of the capital city is the largest IT Park in Asia; it also houses the head offices of leading software companies.

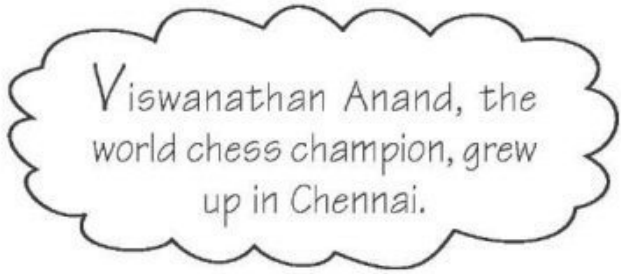
Cricket is a famous sport in Chennai and was started as a result of the foundation of the Madras Cricket Club in 1846.



It is also known as the Detroit of India because of its automobile industry which produces more than 40 per cent of the auto parts and motor vehicles in India.

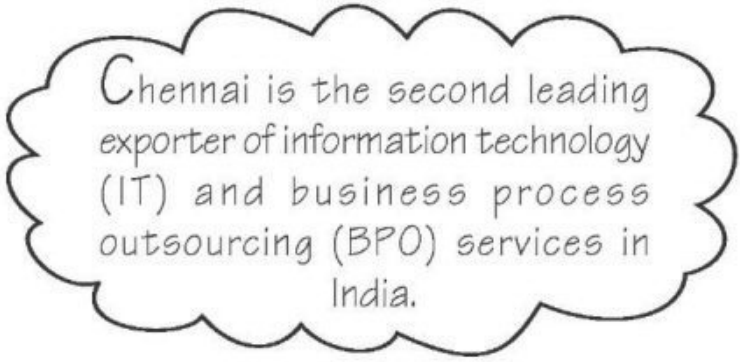
The Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CBMT) at Koyambedu is the leading bus terminal in Asia.





This city is renowned for Bharatnatyam, the famous and one of the oldest classical dance forms in India, which originated in Tamil Nadu.

The Vandalur Zoo in Chennai was set up in 1855 and it is the first public zoo in India and also the largest one in the country.


Chennai is the second leading exporter of information technology (IT) and business process outsourcing (BPO) services in India.

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI

Ubadiyu is a local delicacy made up of vegetables and beans with herbs.

The common food includes rice, roti, vegetables and river fishes and

crab. People also enjoy buttermilk and chutney made up of different fruits and herbs.

DAMAN AND DIU

Rotli and tea are taken for breakfast.

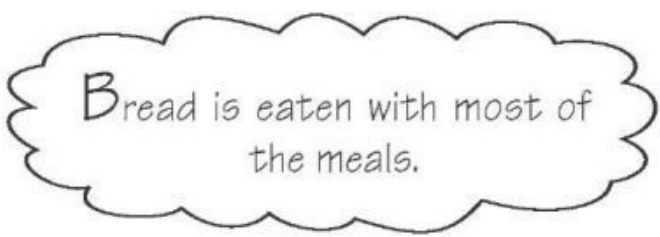
Some of the dishes prepared on festive occasions include, puri, lapsee, potaya, dudh-plag, dhakanu.

GOA

Pork vindaloo: Vindaloo is a popular curry dish in Goa. Vin means the use of vinegar.

Kingfish (Vison or Visvan) is the most common delicacy, and others include pomfret, shark, tuna, and mackerel; these are often served with coconut milk.

Shellfish, including crabs, prawns, tiger prawns, lobster, squid and mussels are commonly eaten.



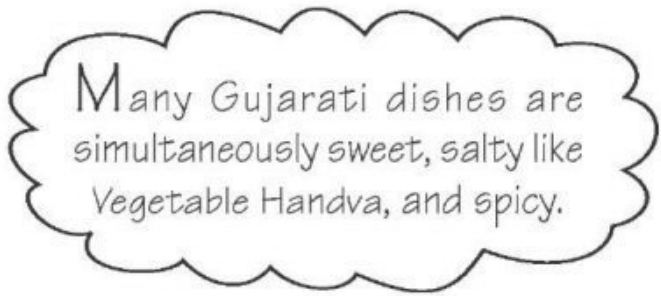
GUJARAT

Khaman is a popular Gujarati snack.

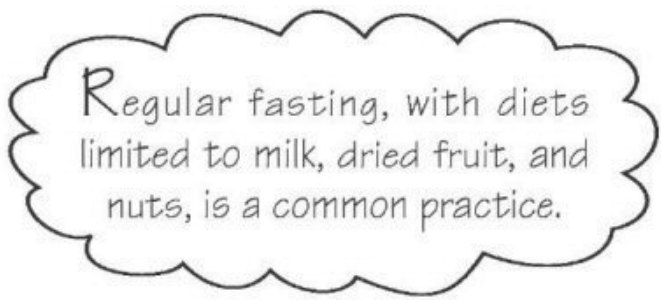
Vegetable handva is salty dinner dish.

Gujarati cuisine is primarily vegetarian. The typical Gujarati thali consists of roti (rotli in Gujarati), daal or kadhi, rice, sabzi/shaak and papad. The sabzi is a dish of different combinations of vegetables and spices which may be stir fried, spicy or sweet.

Gujarati cuisine can vary widely in flavour and heat based on personal and regional tastes. North Gujarat, Kathiawad, Kachchh, and South Gujarat are the four major regions of Gujarati cuisine.



In mango season, keri no ras (fresh mango pulp), is often an integral part of the meal. Spices also vary seasonally. For example, garam masala is used less in summer.

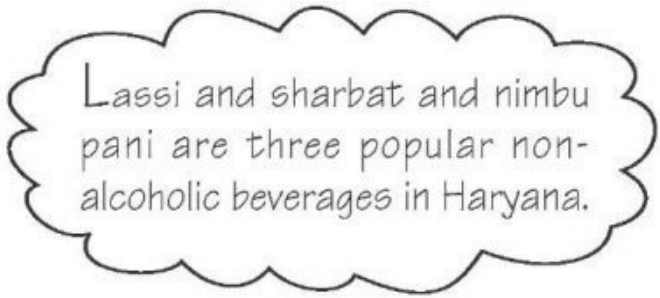


HARYANA

Kadhi is a spicy north Indian dish.

Dairy products are a common component of its cuisine. Specific dishes include kadhi, pakora, besanmasalaroti, bajra aloo roti, churma, kheer, bathua raita, methi gajar, singri ki sabzi, and

tamatar chutney.

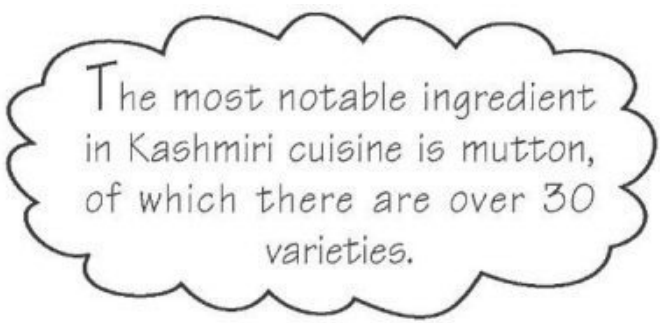


HIMACHAL PRADESH

Some of the specialities of Himachal include sidu, patande and til chutney.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

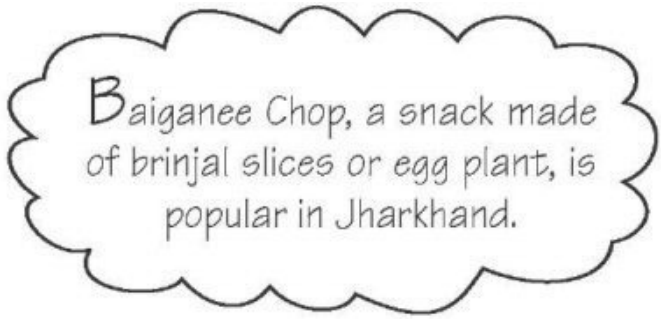
Rogan josh is a popular Kashmiri dish.



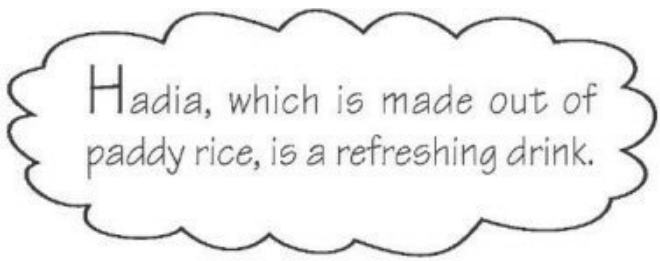
Wazwan is a multicourse meal in the Kashmiri Muslim tradition, of which the preparation is considered an art.

Kashmiri Pandit food is elaborate The cuisine usually uses yogurt, oils, and spices such as turmeric, red chilli powder, cumin, ginger, and fennel, though they do not use onion and garlic.

JHARKHAND

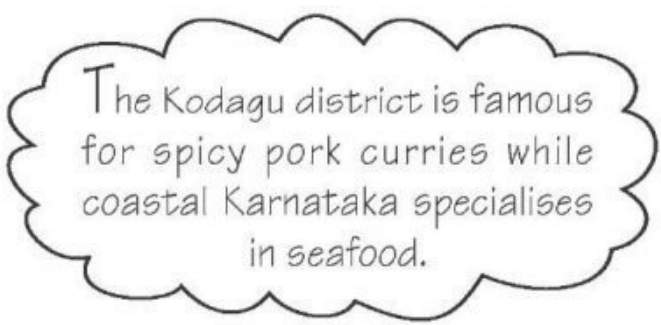


Thekua is a sweet dish made of sugar, wheat, flour and chopped coconuts.



KARNATAKA

Typical dishes include bisi bele bath, jolada rotti, chapati, ragi rotti, akki rotti, saaru, huli, vangibath, khara bath, kesari bath, benne dose, ragi mudde, and uppittu.



A typical Kannadiga Oota (Kannadiga meal) is served on a banana leaf.

KERALA

Kerala cuisine blends indigenous dishes with foreign ones adapted to local tastes. Coconuts grow in abundance in Kerala, so grated coconut and coconut milk are commonly used for thickening and flavouring.

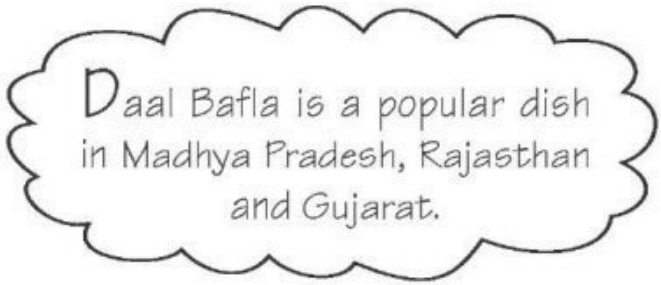
Most of Kerala's Hindus, except its Brahmin community, eat fish, beef and non-vegetarian foods; common among these are chicken, beef, pork catering to Kerala's large minorities of Muslims and Christians.

In most Kerala households, a typical meal consists of rice, fish and vegetables.
Kerala also has a variety of breakfast dishes like idli, dosa, appam, idiyappam, puttu, and pathiri.

LAKSHADWEEP

Coconut and sea fish serve as the foundations of most of the meals. The people of Lakshadweep drink large amounts of coconut water, which is the most abundant aerated drink on the island.

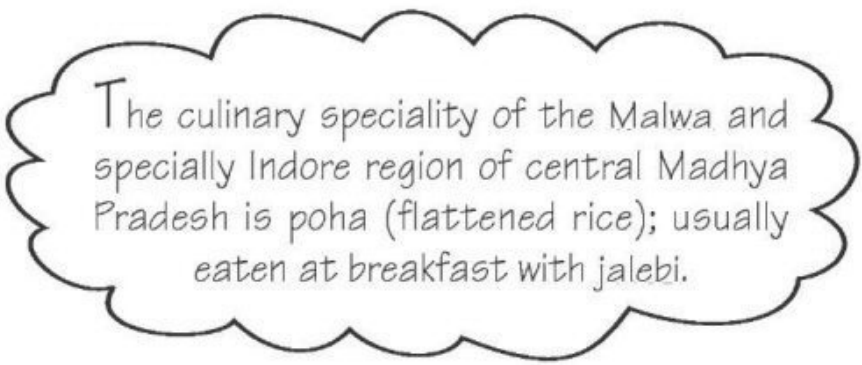
MADHYA PRADESH



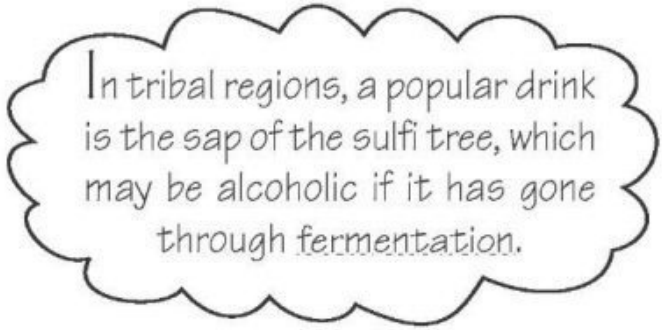
Bhopal is known for meat and fish dishes such as rogan josh, korma, keema, biryani, pilaf and kebabs.

There is a street named Chatori Gali in old Bhopal where one can find traditional Muslim non-veg fare like paya soup, bun kabab, nalli-nihari as some of the specialties.

Dal bafla is a common meal in the region and can be easily found in Indore and other nearby regions, consisting of a steamed and grilled wheat cake dunked in rich ghee which is eaten with daal and ladoos.


The culinary speciality of the Malwa and specially Indore region of central Madhya Pradesh is poha (flattened rice); usually eaten at breakfast with jalebi.

Beverages in the region include lassi, beer, and rum and sugarcane juice. A local liquor is distilled from the flowers of the mahua tree and date palm; toddy is also popular.

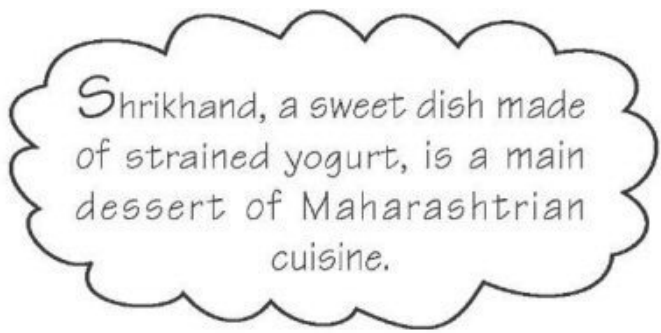


MAHARASHTRA

Poha, a popular breakfast dish in Maharashtra.

Maharashtrian cuisine includes a range of dishes from mild to very spicy tastes. Bajri, wheat, rice, jowar, vegetables, lentils, and fruit form important components of the Maharashtrian diet.

Popular dishes include puran poli, ukdiche modak, batata wada,masala bhat and wada pav.



The state's cuisine uses ground nuts, jaggery, wheat, jowar, and bajra extensively.

A typical meal consists of rice and poli (roti) both along with varan and aamtee—lentils and spiced vegetables. Like other coastal states, there is an enormous variety of vegetables eaten, and fish and coconuts are common. Peanuts and cashews are often served with vegetables. Grated coconuts are used to flavour many types of dishes, but coconut oil is not widely used; peanut oil is preferred.

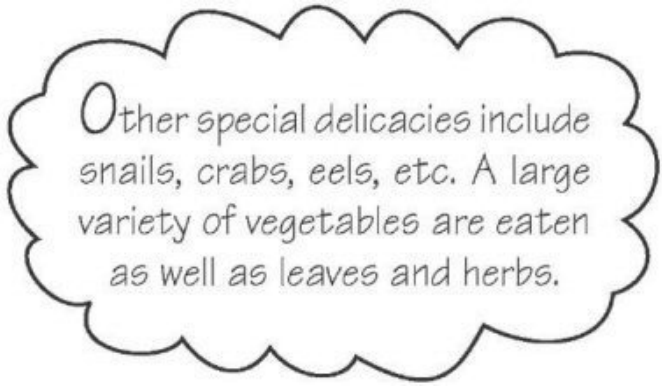
Kokum, most commonly served chilled, is an appetiser-digestive

called sol kadhi. During summer, Maharashtrians consume panha, a drink made from raw mango.

MANIPUR

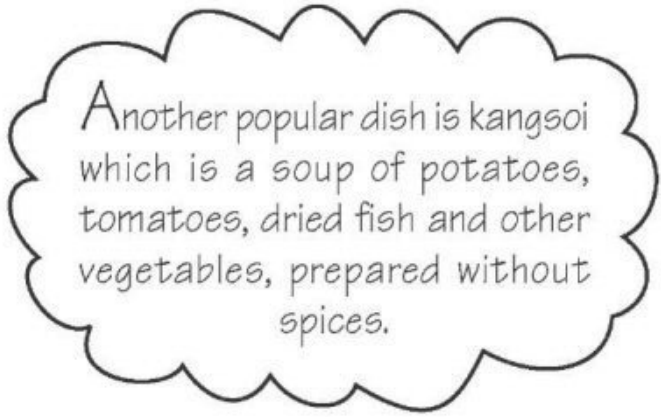
Manipuri cuisine typically features spicy foods that use chili pepper rather than garam masala. The staple diet consists of rice, leafy vegetables, and fish.

Meats like chicken and pork are popular in both valley and hills.

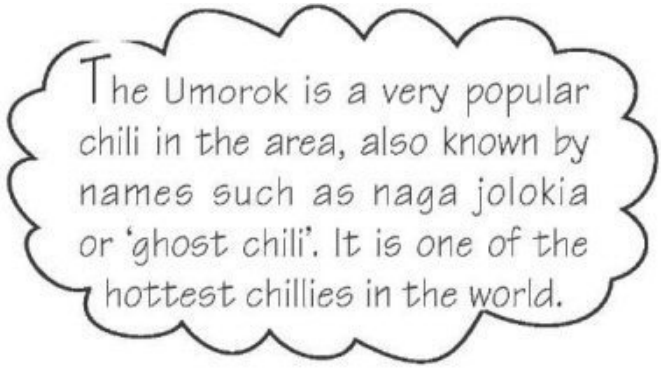

Other special delicacies include snails, crabs, eels, etc. A large variety of vegetables are eaten as well as leaves and herbs.

Bamboo shoot is eaten both fresh and fermented.

Fermented dry fish, locally known as 'ngari' is very popular and is used in almost every dish prepared. Fermented soyabean is also popular.


Another popular dish is kangsoi which is a soup of potatoes, tomatoes, dried fish and other vegetables, prepared without spices.

The hill people eat beef and the Muslim Pangals eat mutton. Fruits, especially citrus fruits, are also very popular.

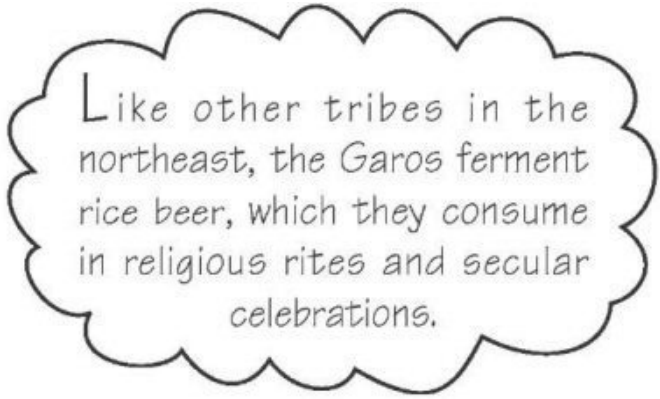

The Umorok is a very popular chili in the area, also known by names such as naga jolokia or 'ghost chili'. It is one of the hottest chillies in the world.

MEGHALAYA

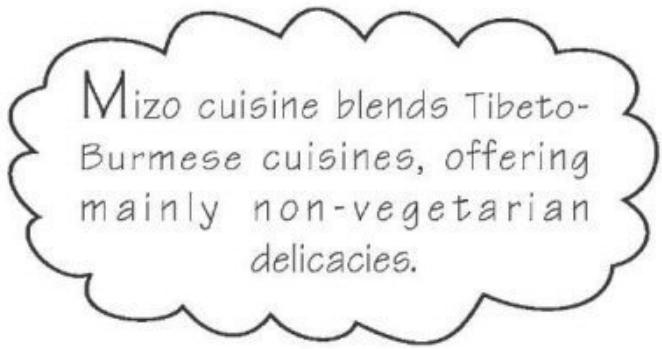
Spiced meat is common, from goats, pigs, fowl, ducks, and cows.

In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts, common foods include jadoh, ki kpu, tung-rymbai, and pickled bamboo shoots.

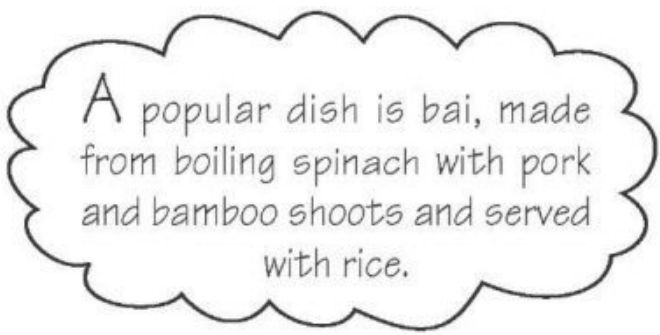
Other common foods in Meghalaya include minil songa (steamed sticky rice), sakkin gata, and momo dumplings.


Like other tribes in the northeast, the Garos ferment rice beer, which they consume in religious rites and secular celebrations.

MIZORAM



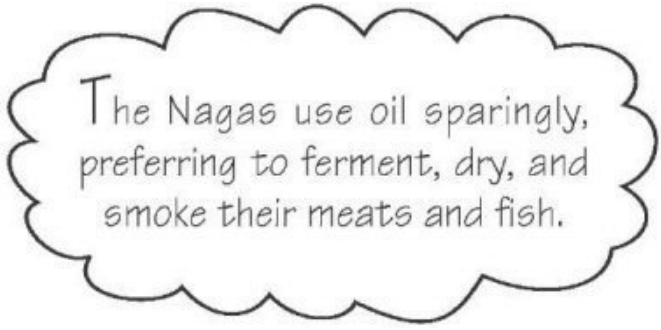
Dishes are served on fresh banana leaves. Meals tend to be less spicy than in most of India.



Sawchair is another common dish, made of rice and cooked with pork or chicken.

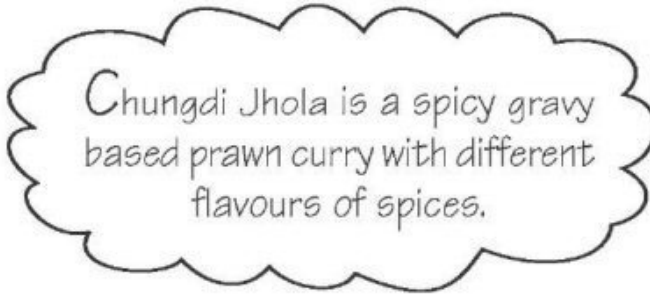
NAGALAND

Pork is cooked with simple and flavourful ingredients, like the extremely hot bhut jolokia pepper, fermented bamboo shoot and soya beans.



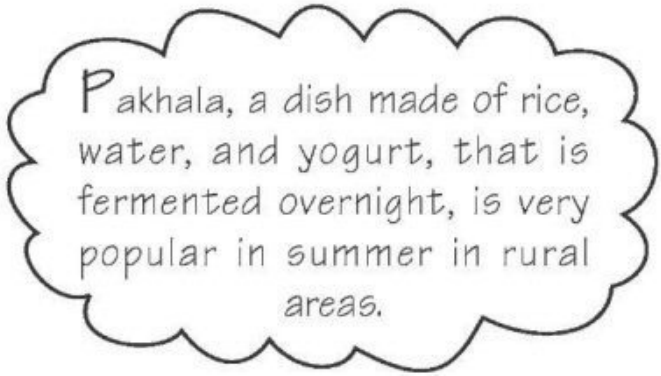
Traditional homes in Nagaland have external kitchens that serve as smoke houses.

ODISHA



Panch phutana, a mix of cumin, mustard, fennel, fenugreek and kalonji (nigella) is widely used for flavouring vegetables and dals,

while garam masala and turmeric are commonly used for meat-based curries.



PUDUCHERRY

Some favourite dishes include coconut curry, tandoori potato, soya dosa, podanlangkai, curried vegetables, stuffed cabbage, and baked beans.

PUNJAB

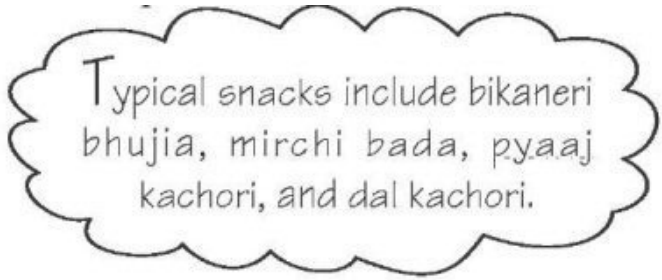
The main masala in a Punjabi dish consists of onion, garlic and ginger.

Tandoori food is a Punjabi speciality, especially with non-vegetarian dishes.

Many of the most popular elements of Anglo-Indian cuisine, such as tandoori foods, naan, pakoras and vegetable dishes with paneer, are derived from Punjabi styles.

RAJASTHAN

Major dishes of a Rajasthani meal may include daal-baati, tarfini, raabdi, ghewar, bail-gatte, panchkoota, chaavadi, laapsi, kadhi and boondi.

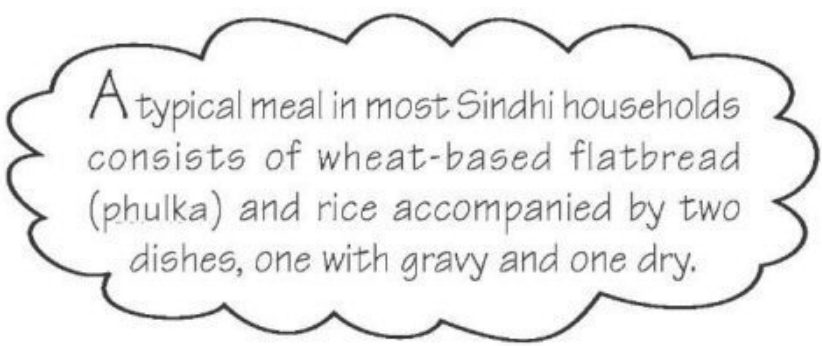


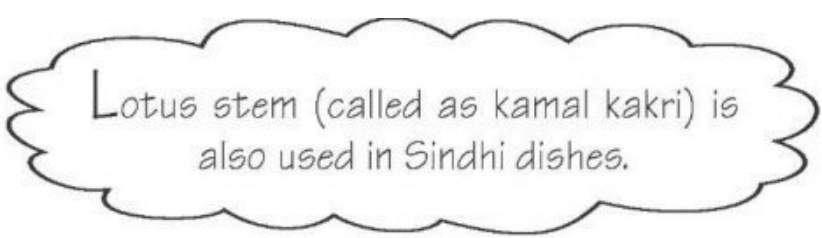
Daal-baati is the most popular dish prepared in the state. It is usually supplemented with choorma, a mixture of finely grinded baked rotis, sugar and ghee.

SIKKIM

Momo, gya thuk, ningro, gundruk, phagshapa and sael roti are some of the local dishes.

SINDH

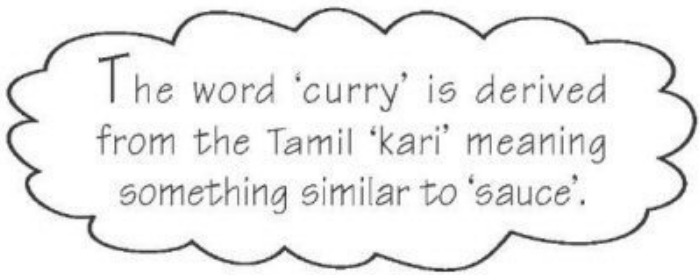

A typical meal in most Sindhi households consists of wheat-based flatbread (phulka) and rice accompanied by two dishes, one with gravy and one dry.



Some common ingredients used are mango powder, tamarind, kokum flowers and dried pomegranate seeds.

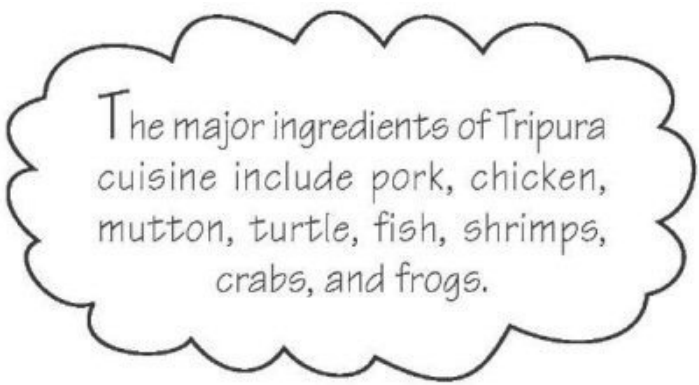
TAMIL NADU

Tamil food is characterised by *tiffins,* which is a light food taken for breakfast or dinner and *meals* which are usually taken during lunch.

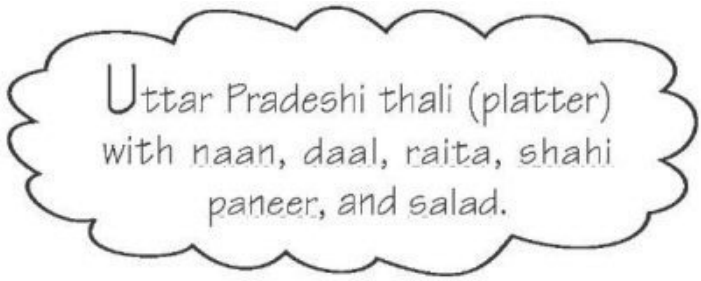


Dosa and idli are some of the popular dishes and are eaten with chutney and sambar.

TRIPURA



UTTAR PRADESH

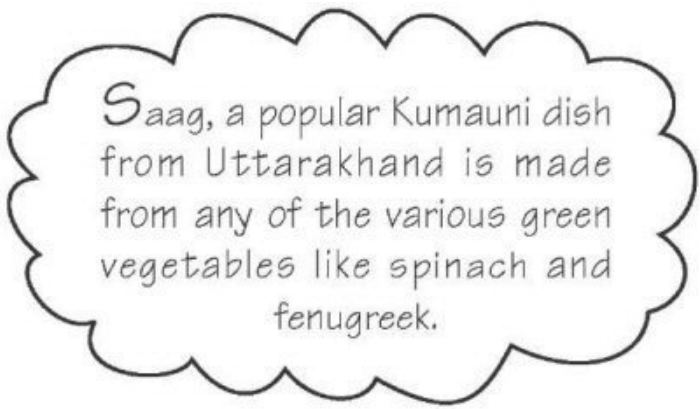


Chaat, samosa and *pakora,* among the most popular snacks in India, originate from Uttar Pradesh.

Famous dishes include *kebabs, dum biryani,* and various mutton recipes.

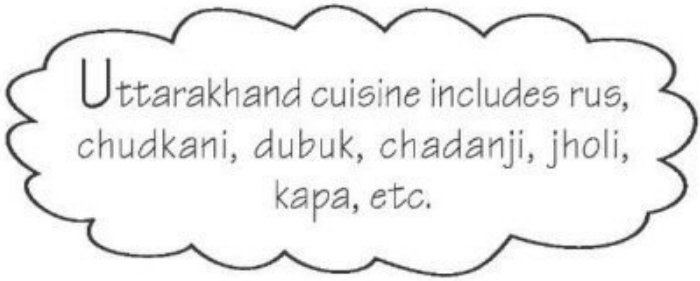
Sheer Qorma, Ghewar, Gulab Jamun, Kheer, Ras Malai are some of the popular desserts.

UTTARAKHAND


Saag, a popular Kumauni dish from Uttarakhand is made from any of the various green vegetables like spinach and fenugreek.

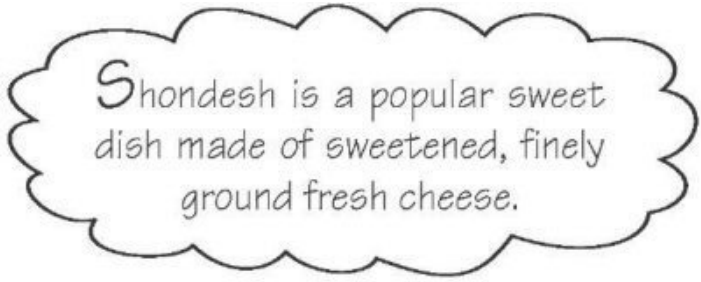
Uttarakhand cuisine uses some exotic condiments like jambu, timmer, ghandhraini and bhangira.

They also use Badi (sun-dried urad dal balls) and mungodi (sun-dried moong dal balls) as substitute for vegetables at times.



Uttarakhand also has several sweets (mithai) such as singodi, bal-mithai, malai laddu.

WEST BENGAL



MORE FUN FACTS

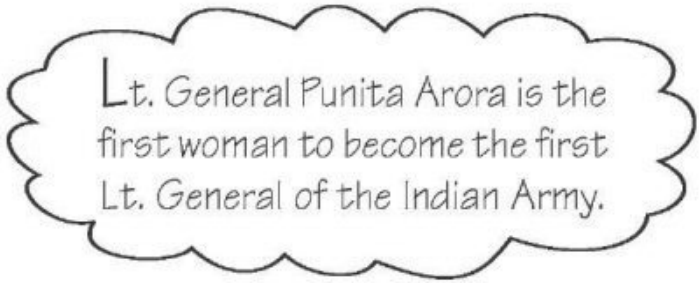
Mrs Shakuntala Devi is the only Indian who holds the word record for fastest computing – faster than a computer.

The last Mahakumbha of the 20th Century was held in Haridwar.

Rabindranath Tagore lived in a house called 'Uttaran'.

Amir Khusro is said to have invented the sitar.

24 spokes of the Ashoka Chakra signifies the 24 hours and strokes of the hour.

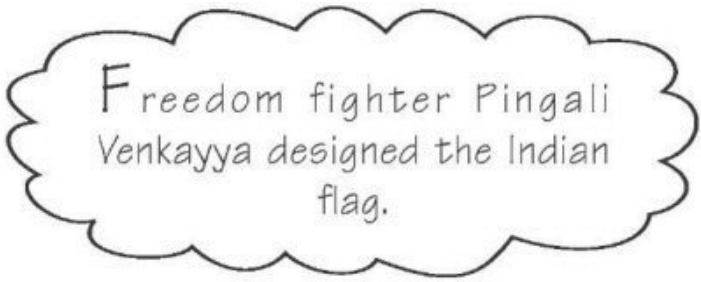


PBG – President's bodyguard is the oldest armoured regiment in the Indian Army.

Tata Sky is on INSAT-4 at 83.0 degree E.

Aryabhatta is India's first artificial satellite.

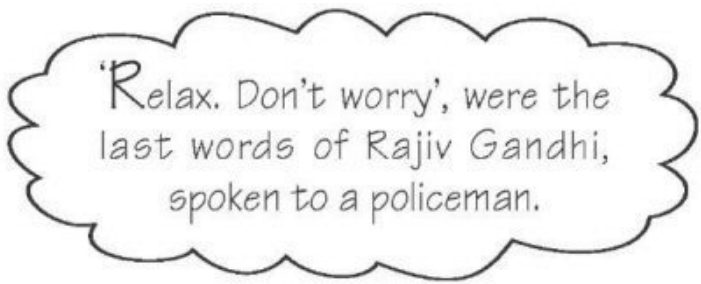
Mohammad Iqbal composed *Saare Jahan se Acha.*

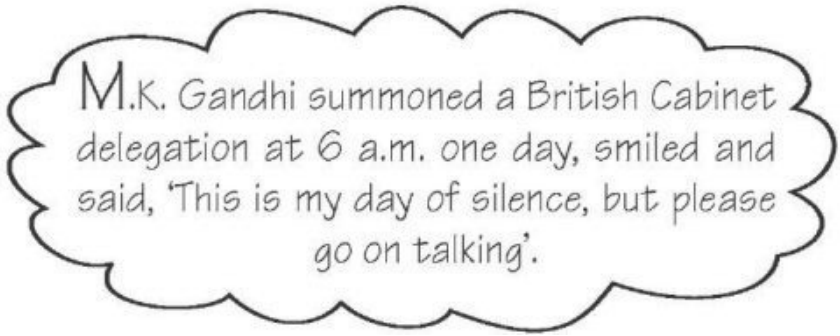


The Khilji dynasty was named after a village in Afghanistan.

Manipur state in India literally means 'the Land of Gems'.

Aastha Arora is the name of India's billionth baby.




M.K. Gandhi summoned a British Cabinet delegation at 6 a.m. one day, smiled and said, 'This is my day of silence, but please go on talking'.

Varun Gandhi on entry into Indian politics was called 'baba'-the kid.

The best man in Priyanka Gandhi's wedding was a pet dog, a Boxer.

Salt is the first item served at a Bengali wedding reception to ensure one stands witness in case of a matrimonial dispute.

The Pontius Pilate syndrome (rubbing both his hands) is what Amitabh Bachchan does on his show KBC.

There are 17 major languages and 844 dialects spoken in India.

India invented the number system and Aryabhatta was the scientist who invented the digit zero.

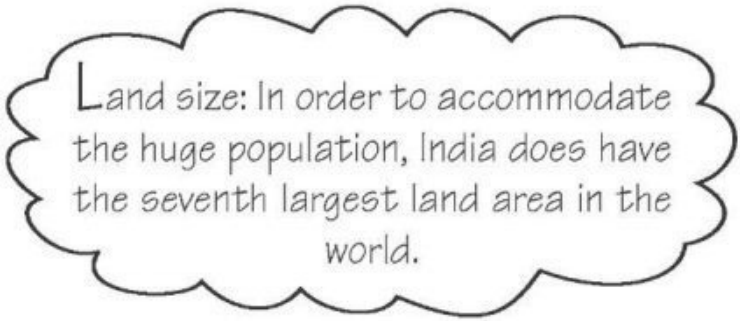
India has the most number of mosques. It has 300,000 mosques which is much more than the Muslim world.

India is one of the largest exporters of computer software products.

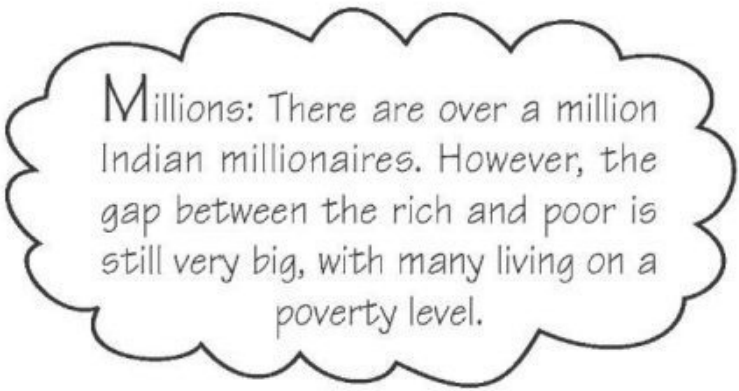
Before 1986, India was the only place in the world where diamonds could be found.

The biggest and the largest employer in the world is Indian railways employing over a million people.

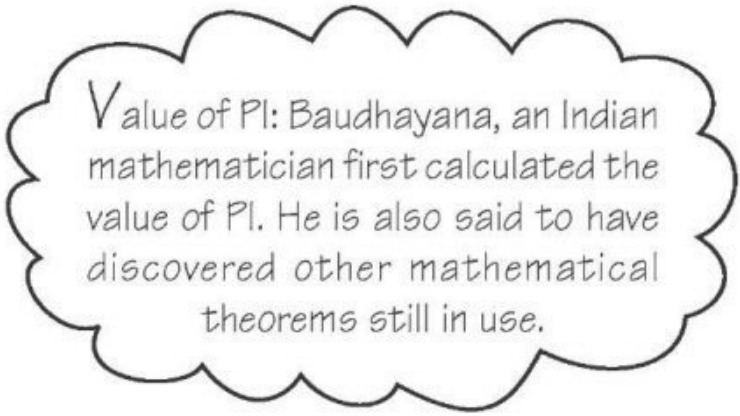
MORE POTPOURRI



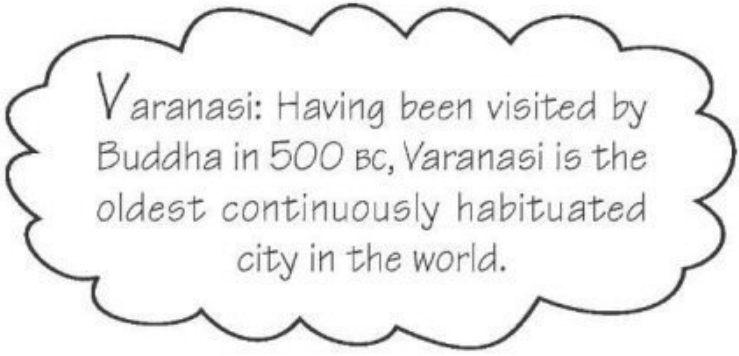
One quarter of the work force: It's estimated that in the next two to three years, 25 per cent of people entering the workforce will be Indian.


Millions: There are over a million Indian millionaires. However, the gap between the rich and poor is still very big, with many living on a poverty level.

Language: The national language is Hindi, with English also widely spoken and both are considered the official languages of India.


Value of PI: Baudhayana, an Indian mathematician first calculated the value of PI. He is also said to have discovered other mathematical theorems still in use.

University: The first university is said to have been started in Takshila in 700 BC. Thousands of students from all over the world studied a variety of subjects.



Roads: The world's largest road network is in India—over 1.9 million miles of roads cover the country.

Chess: Chaturanga—Sanskrit, meaning 'four members of an army' was invented in India. Now known all over the world, chess had its beginnings in India.

Multi-lingual: There are 1,652 dialects and languages spoken in India. It is not at all unusual for an Indian to speak at least two and often more languages well.

Recognized languages: There are currently 22 recognized languages in India, with standard Hindi and English being the standard languages.

English speakers: Because so many Indians speak English, India now has the largest population of English speakers in the world.

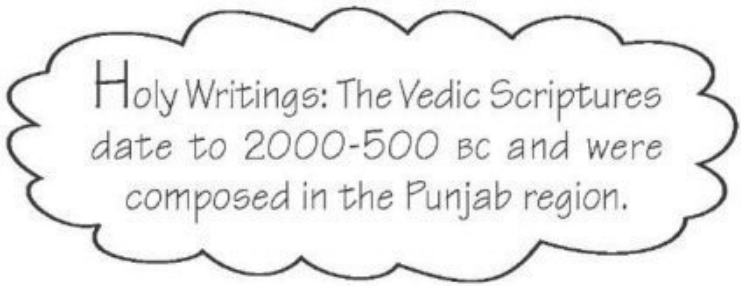
Borders: India shares land borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myammar and Bangladesh. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are neighbouring ocean countries.

Exports: Going back thousands of years, India has long exported textiles. Current exports include steel, agricultural goods, and many services, such as in the tech or medical industries.

Beauties: India has won two Miss Universe and five Miss World titles so far. Many Indian beauty queens are also Bollywood actresses or models.

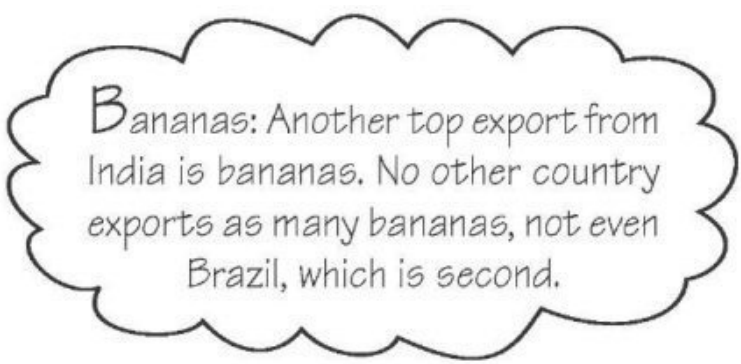
Age demographic: More than 50 per cent of India is younger than 25 and more than 65 per cent are 35 or younger. The average Indian age is much younger than most other nations.

Old civilization: Some of the oldest and most long-lasting civilizations can be traced to India, or areas that used to belong to India. Early empires were larger than other neighbouring empires of the time, including Egypt and Mesopotamia.



IT: The Pentium chip and Hotmail were created by Indians—Vinod Dahm and Sabeer Bhatia respectively. The Indian IT population is growing and is highly sought after all over the world.

Beans: India produces more dried beans than any other nation on earth. This includes a variety of legumes such as the kidney bean and chick peas as well as a variety of lentils.


Bananas: Another top export from India is bananas. No other country exports as many bananas, not even Brazil, which is second.

National drink: Chai, or tea is drunk widely in India. It produces more tea than any other country, exporting to countries all over the world.

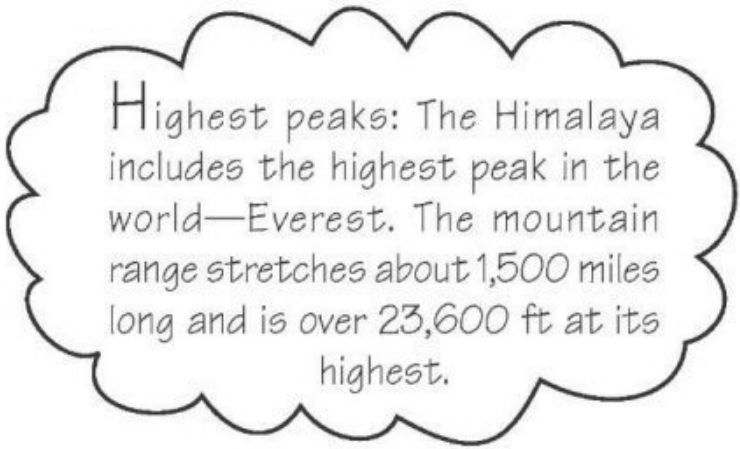
Spices: While saffron has its roots in neighbouring countries, India uses the most expensive spice in several sweets and other dishes.

Staples: The main food staple in India are rice in the south, wheat in the north, and dal or lentils.

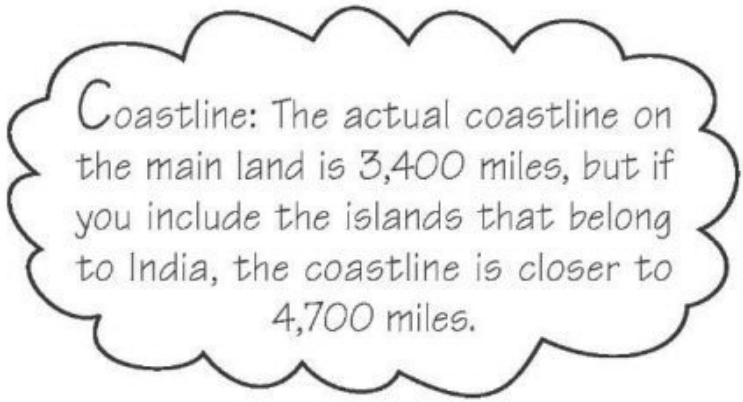
Lucky colour: Red is the colour of good luck and is usually worn for weddings and other celebrations and festivals.

Vegetarian: India has the largest amount of vegetarians in the world.

Cherrapunji is the wettest spot on earth. It receives at least 425 inches of rain every year.


Highest peaks: The Himalaya includes the highest peak in the world—Everest. The mountain range stretches about 1,500 miles long and is over 23,600 ft at its highest.

Sacred River: The Ganga is the longest river in India and is considered sacred by Hindus. It has the most populated river basin in the world.


Coastline: The actual coastline on the main land is 3,400 miles, but if you include the islands that belong to India, the coastline is closer to 4,700 miles.

Mangrove: The Sundarbans is the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangroves in the world. 1/3 of the Sundarbans is in India. This is also the reserve for the Bengal Tiger.

Jungle: Less than 12 per cent of the Indian landmass is covered in jungle. However, the country has a large variety of plant and animal life including 13.7 per cent of all avian creatures.

Protected: India has worked hard to preserve endangered species and their shrinking wild life. There are more than 500 wildlife sanctuaries and 13 reserves.

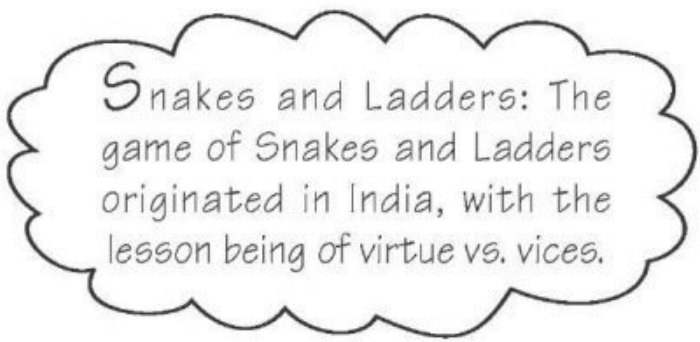
Heritage: There are 27 UNESCO heritage sites in India. These protected areas help to protect the long culture and history of the country.

Vishnu Temple: This temple in Tirupati is the most visited pilgrimage destination in the world, even more than Mecca or the Vatican.

Brihadeeswara Temple: India's largest temple which houses the statue of Nandi is carved out of a single 13ft rock. The entire temple is made out of granite and is over 1,000 years old.

High ground: The world's highest cricket ground is in chai in Himachal Pradesh. It was built after a hill was levelled at over 2,400 metre above sea level.

Ganga River Dolphin: Another little known fact about India is this species of dolphin, which includes two subspecies and is the only blind dolphin in the world.



Navigation: The word 'navigation' comes from the Sanskrit word navagatha as the first navigators made their way along the Sindh River about 6,000 years ago.

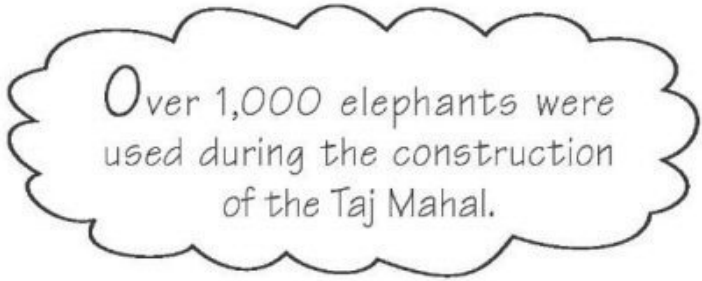
Medical advances: Surgeries were done in India over 2,600 years ago by Sushruta. He also developed Ayurveda and made records of several complicated surgeries and operations.

Outsourcing: Half of the outsourced IT services in the world come from India. This is a large industry and big part of the current Indian economy.

Software: One of the largest exporters of software, India exports to over 60 countries right now.

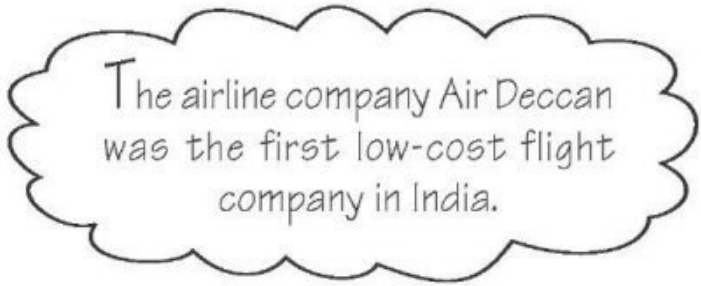
FUNNY FACTS

There were no plastic bags in India before 1985.



Mobile users of India grow every month by about 2.5 million people.

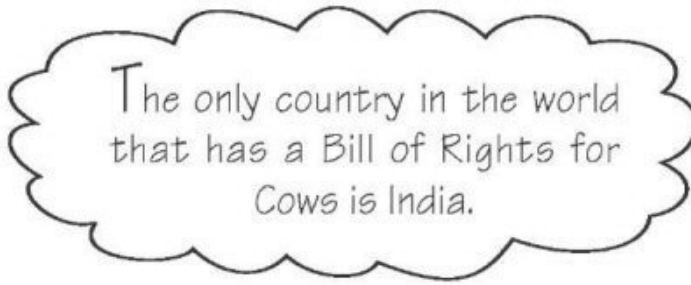
At about 150 million Internet users, India now has 3rd largest Internet population in the world after China (at 575m) and the US (at 275m). The Internet penetration in India remains at 12 per cent vs. 43 per cent in China and 80 per cent in the US.



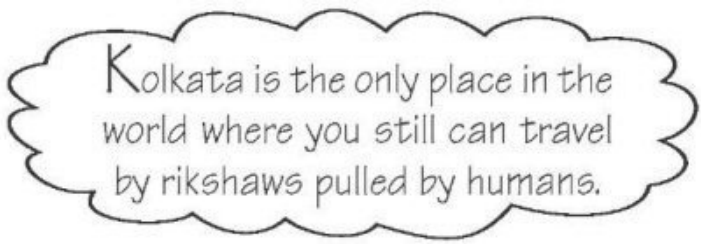
The highest cricket ground in the world is Chail in Himachal Pradesh, India.

Indian Railways transport about five billion passengers annually.

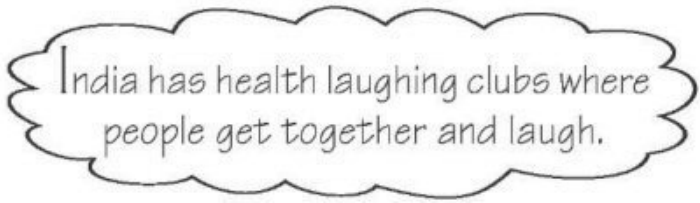
The longest station name on the Indian Railways is Venkatanarasimharajuvariapeta.



India is the world's largest mango producer.



In India, nearly, 1200 species of birds can be found.

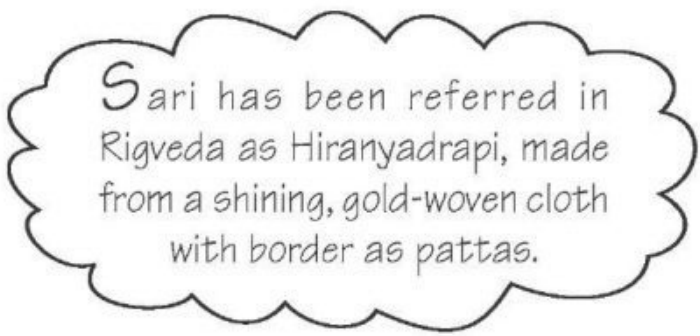


The biggest ant in India is about an inch.

Shampoo is a word derived from the Hindi word 'Campo' which means 'to press'.

THE INDIAN SARI

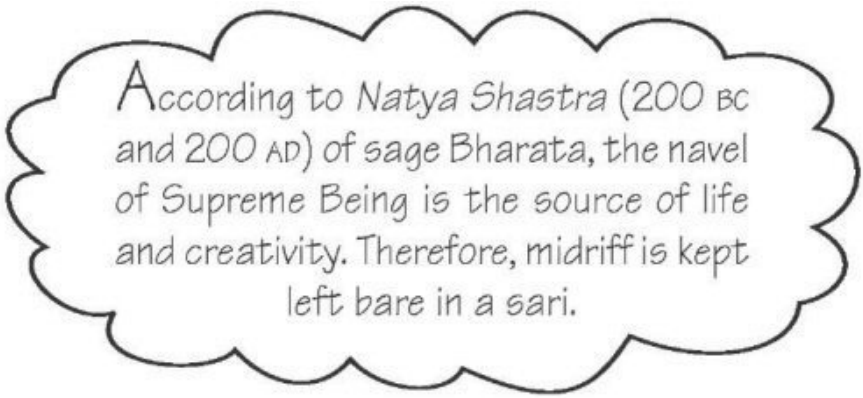
The sari word is derived from Sanskrit 'sati' and 'shatika', which means 'strip of cloth'. It was corrupted to 'sari' and 'sattika' in Prakrit, and then 'sari' and 'sari' in Hindi.

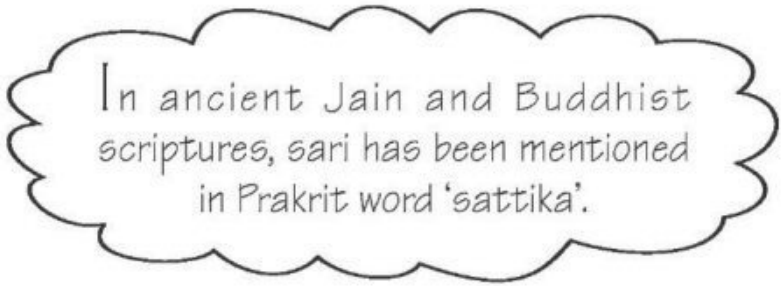


Women of Vedic period used to wear a *uttariya* (upper garment), an *antariya* (lower garment) and *a kayabandh* (waistband). Sari was worn in the form of an uttariya.

According to the great epic *Ramayana,* when Sita, the wife of Lord Rama is abducted by the demon Ravana, she tears apart a piece of her sari and throws her anklets, bracelets and other jewellery tied in it.

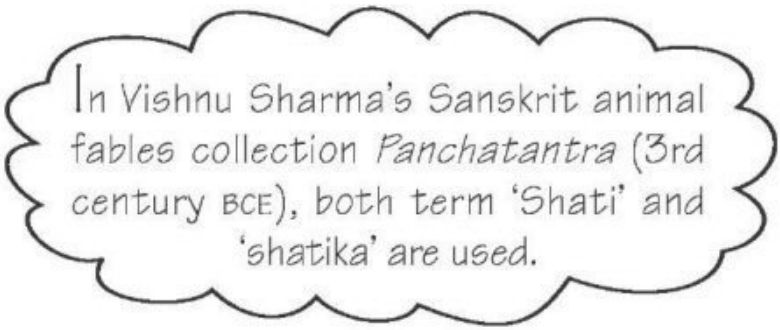
In the great epic *Mahabharata,* when Dushashan tries to strip the Draupadi, she calls to Lord Krishna, who performs a miracle by increasing the length of her sari and Dushashan fails in his wicked purpose. In this scripture, minicheri is mentioned, which is an interwoven sari embellished with pearls and glittering borders.


According to Natya Shastra (200 BC and 200 AD) of sage Bharata, the navel of Supreme Being is the source of life and creativity. Therefore, midriff is kept left bare in a sari.



In archeological excavation of Indus valley civilization period (2800-1800 BC), the statue of a priest wearing a sari has been found.

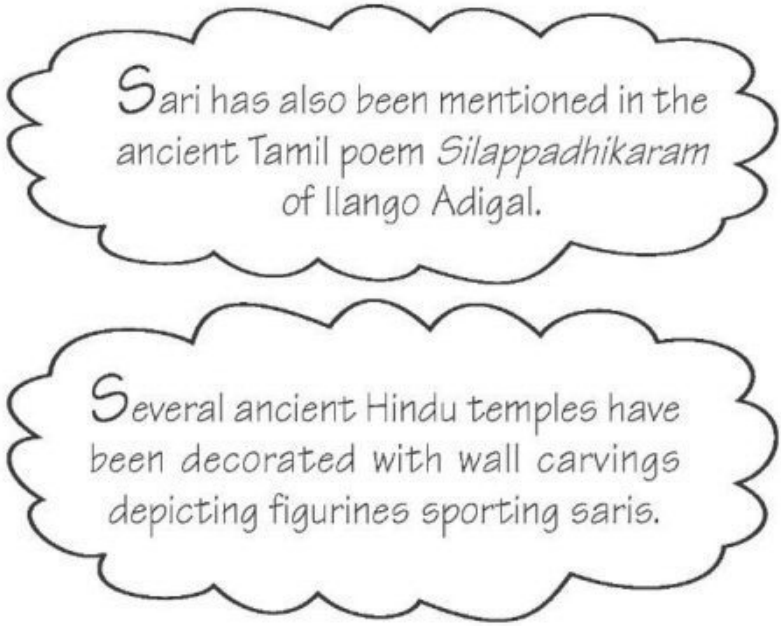
In Ajanta cave sculpture and painting (2nd century BCE), several figures are portrayed wearing different types of saris, which indicate that contemporary Indian artisans were well-versed in weaving saris in different techniques.


In Vishnu Sharma's Sanskrit animal fables collection Panchatantra (3rd century BCE), both term 'Shati' and 'shatika' are used.

Various sculptures of Gandhara, Mathura and Gupta schools of art (1st- 6th century) depict goddesses and dancers wearing a sari. The

sari used to be created in 'fishtail' design, which loosely covers the legs and then flows in front of the leg like a long, decorative drape.

Banabhatta, in his Sanskrit romantic work, *Kadambari* (first half of 7th century) describes the ladies wearing elegant drapery or sari.


Sari has also been mentioned in the ancient Tamil poem *Silappadhikaram* of Ilango Adigal.
Several ancient Hindu temples have been decorated with wall carvings depicting figurines sporting saris.

Popular Indian historical heroines like Kittur Chennamma (1778-1829), Lakshmi Bai, the Rani of Jhansi (1835-1858) and Belawadi Mallamma (17th century) battled with enemy troops on horseback wearing tightly tied saris.

INDIAN WEDDINGS

Some Hindu families practise the custom of giving the bride a knife or some other sharp metal object to keep with her at all times from the time she gets engaged to the wedding day, to protect her from any unwanted male attention or advances.

Muslim weddings traditionally include a custom called meher. It is a formal statement of a sum of money that the groom hands over to the bride. Meher is given in two parts, the first being handed over before the marriage is consummated and the second given in parts as cash, jewellery or property. This gift is for the bride to do with as she pleases.

In the Punjabi community, brides wear a 'Chudaa' (a set of red and white bangles) for a few months into the marriage, to bring them good luck in their new home.

During the olden days, in Kerala, the concept of a 'mock wedding ceremony' was prevalent in some communities. During this ceremony, the bride was married to a man who was a perfect astrological match for her. Since this was a mock marriage, the bride and groom could go their separate ways after the ceremony was over.

Mangala Snaanam or the purification bath; it is a pre-wedding custom in many Indian communities. It is done at first light on the day of the wedding for the purification of the bride and groom's physical self, before they begin the wedding rituals.

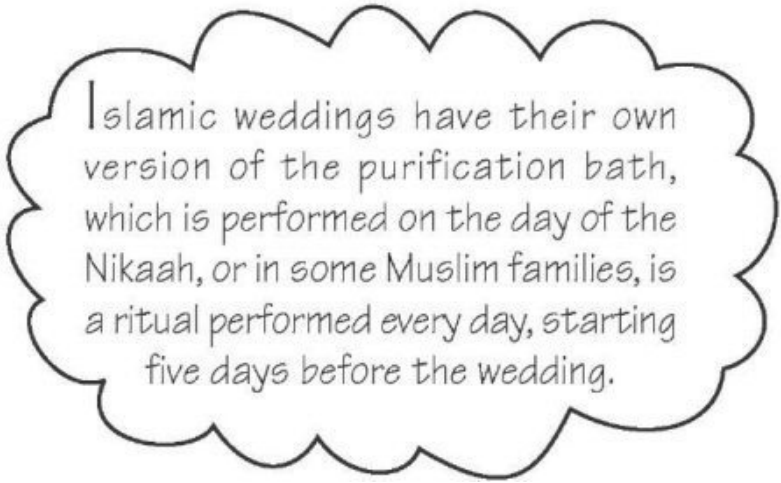
Sikh families have afterwedding games to welcome the new bride to their family. One of them is the knotted string game, where the sister of the groom ties several knots in a long string and the bride and groom are supposed to use one hand each and work together to pry open the knots. It is believed that the sooner they untie the knots, the smoother their wedded life will be.

An old wives tale for the 'Bidaai' ceremony states that if the bride sheds a tear or two, she will never cry again for the entire duration of her marriage.

The Gujarati community performs a custom where the mother of the bride tries to catch the groom's nose when the baraat arrives, to remind him that since he is now taking away her daughter, he will be responsible for her well-being and happiness.

Sikh weddings have a pre-wedding 'Vatna' ceremony, usually done a day before the wedding, where the women of the family apply a paste of haldi and besan to the bride's body, and sing traditional songs.

As per tradition, both Hindu and Sikh brides, before taking the first step into their new homes, tilt over a vessel full of wheat. This is symbolic of the prosperity and abundance that a bride is believed to bring to her new home.


Islamic weddings have their own version of the purification bath, which is performed on the day of the Nikaah, or in some Muslim families, is a ritual performed every day, starting five days before the wedding.

MARRIAGE BY ABDUCTION

Among some ancient Indian tribes, marriage by abduction is the norm. The young man must carry away his lady on his back, keep her hidden for a year and then have a normal ceremony with the automatic consent of the bride's parents.

WEDDING CONTRACT

The Nagarattars of Tamil Nadu in South India have a tradition that follows the ceremonial tying of the thali or mangalsutra. The fathers of both the bride and the groom sign the isaivu padimaanam, which is a document stating the marriage contract between the two families.

DEEPER THE COLOUR

An Indian bride applies henna or mehendi to her hands and feet before the wedding. The belief is that the deeper the final colour, the more she will be loved by her husband or some say, her mother-in-law. She is also forbidden from doing any housework as long as the colour of the bridal mehendi remains on her hands, making the longevity of the henna all the more desirable!

VEILED GROOM

In North India, the groom's face is kept hidden before the wedding behind a floral veil called sehra, which is tied to the turban. The veil is believed to protect him from the evil eye. At some point before the ceremony, someone from the bride's family lifts the veil briefly to ensure that the groom is the chosen one and not an impostor!

RIGHT FOOTED

After the Hindu wedding ceremony, the bride arrives at her husband's home and is ceremonially ushered in by her mother-in-law. The bride must take care to enter the threshold with her right foot first, which she uses to gently knock over a vessel filled to the brim with rice that has been placed there strategically in order to ensure good luck and plenty for her new family.

RANSOM SHOES

In Punjab, it is customary for young girls related to the bride to play a prank on the groom involving his shoes. During the marriage ceremony the groom's unattended shoes are removed and hidden away. After the ceremony, he is asked to pay a ransom or 'fee' for their return. The groom comes prepared for this and offers cash or traditional trinkets, called kalicharis, gold for the bride's sisters and silver for her cousins.

RING OF CONTROL

A light-hearted ritual called aeki beki among Gujarati Hindus follows the arrival of the newly wed couple at their home. A ring and a few coins are put into a silver dish filled with milk and vermilion and the bride and groom are asked to dip their hands into the bowl to search for the ring. The one who finds the ring four out of seven times is predicted most likely to rule the roost!

GROOM'S NOSE

A pre-wedding ritual in Gujarat has the groom arriving at the house of the bride to seek the blessings of his mother-in-law. She blesses

him and performs a ritual to ward off the evil eye. She also tries to catch his nose, playfully reminding him of his responsibility as a son-in-law.

EARTH BRINGING

Some tribal communities perform an earth-bringing ceremony before the wedding. Earth from a holy place is carried to the wedding house and a kiln built and anointed. All food for the wedding feast is cooked in this kiln.

ASCETIC GROOM

Grooms among Tamil Brahmins perform a ritual enactment of asceticism. A regular practice during the wedding is for the groom to pretend to being suddenly disillusioned and wanting to renounce the world. Accompanied by his friends, he leaves the marriage hall dressed in a dhoti (a simple cloth tied at the waist with a knot). The father and other relatives of the bride must then persuade him to come back and accept the bride.

FUN FACTS ON DHARAVI

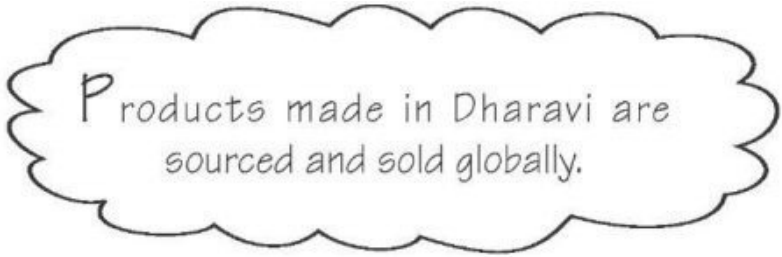
Dharavi in Mumbai is the biggest slum in the world.

It has a population of around 600,000 people.

60 per cent of the families have lived there for 60 years.

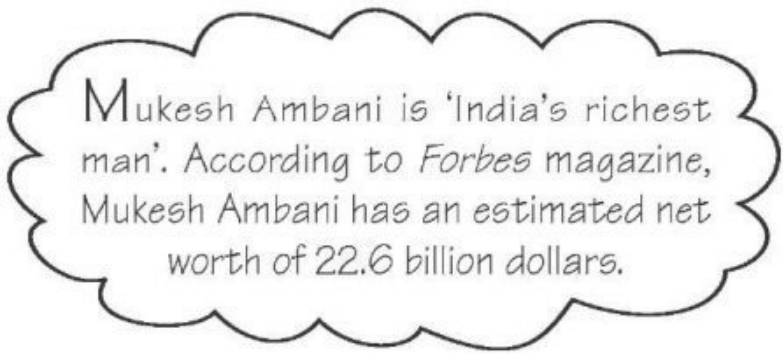
In the 18th century, Dharavi was an island.

Many businesses in Dharavi generate million dollar incomes.



Dharavi is a major tourism location in Mumbai and a big chunk of junior film artists come from Dharavi.

THE RICH


Mukesh Ambani is 'India's richest man'. According to Forbes magazine, Mukesh Ambani has an estimated net worth of 22.6 billion dollars.

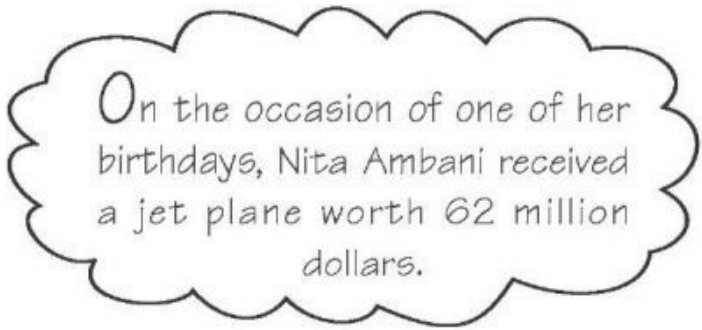
The Ambani family consists of Mukesh, his wife Nita and their three children **Akash, Isha and Anant.** A number of interesting stories and facts are connected to their family. Here are some interesting things you may not know about **the wealthiest family in India.**

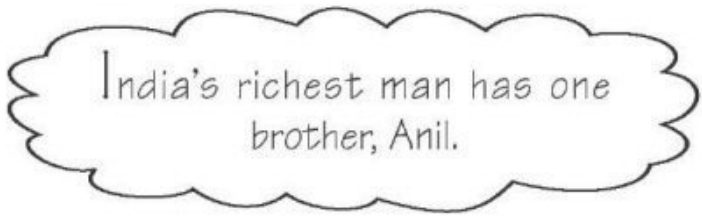
The Most Expensive House in the World: Ambani's new house is called Antilla and according to a number of reputable publications, it is the most expensive home in the world. Antilla is actually the first house to exceed a net worth of one billion dollars.

Antilla was built in downtown Mumbai, a city that is known for its exceptional poverty. The 60-storey house has a garage for 168 cars, an independent health club for each family member, a cinema and a staff of 600 people.

Anant Ambani, the 17-year-old son of India's richest man, is exceptionally spiritual. Numerous reports state that **Anant Ambani** visits the **Lord Balaji temple** as frequently, as possible.

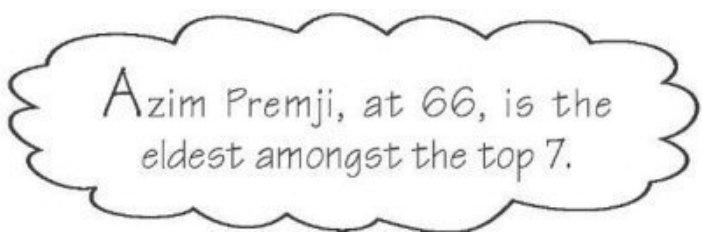
To prove his faith, the affluent teenager Anant Ambani decided to make a special donation for the temple. He ended up providing a sacred white elephant as a special present to Lord Balaji.





Anil Ambani is one of the other wealthiest individuals in India. Prior to their father's death, the two brothers worked together. They eventually entered a dispute about the company, which led to the separation of their business activities.

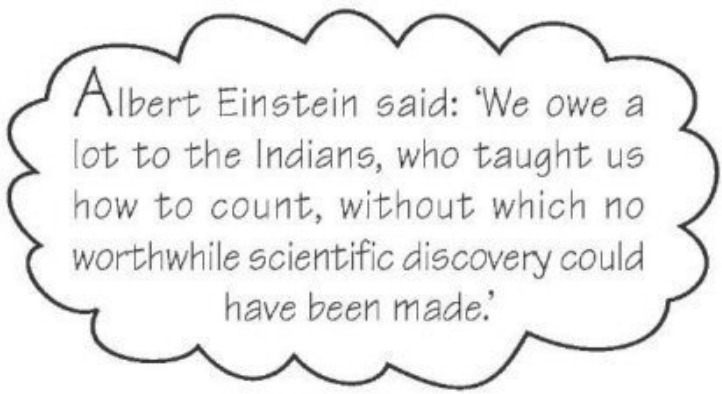
Anil Ambani, the biggest loser among the top 7, lost 24 per cent of his wealth over last year. Mukesh Ambani lost 15 per cent while Lakshmi Mittal lost 13 per cent of his wealth. The average age of the billionaires is 60 but the top 7 have an average age of 57.



There is only one billionaire, Azim Premji, who is from the non-manufacturing sector, i.e., software. Even he has some manufacturing presence. At number 3, he gained 18 per cent over last year.

Isha Ambani, the daughter of **Mukesh and Nita,** was only 16 at the time, ranked second in the *Forbes* list of top 10 billionaire heiresses in 2008. At that tender age, Isha was the owner of an 80-million dollar share of Reliance Industries. Currently, **Isha Ambani** is a student at Yale. Her majors are South Asian Studies and Psychology.

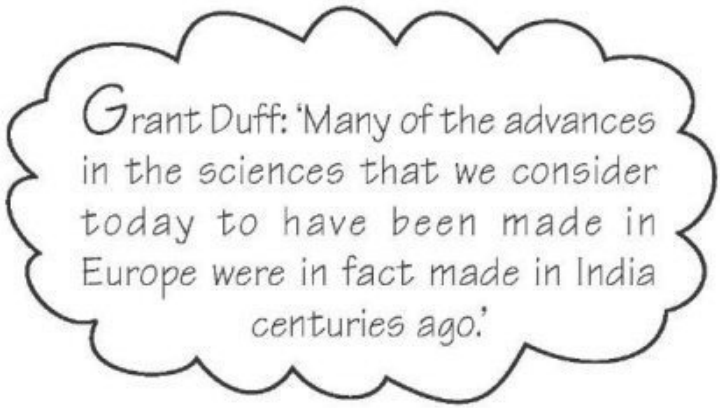
WHAT SOME PEOPLE HAD TO SAY ABOUT INDIA


Albert Einstein said: 'We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.'

Mark Twain said: 'India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.'

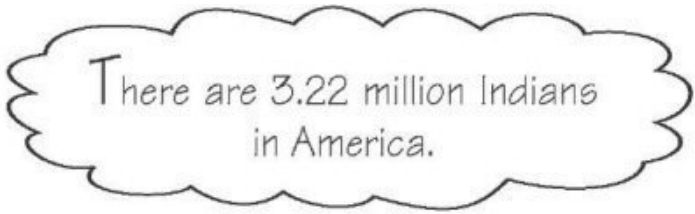
French scholar Romain Rolland said: 'If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India.'

Hu Shih, former Ambassador of China to USA said: 'India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border.'


Grant Duff: 'Many of the advances in the sciences that we consider today to have been made in Europe were in fact made in India centuries ago.'

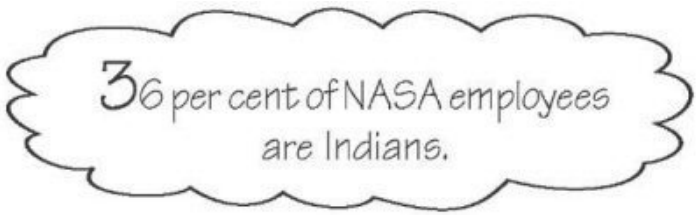
Will Durant: 'India was the motherland of our race and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages. India was the mother of our philosophy, of much of our mathematics, of the ideals embodied in Christianity... of self-government and democracy. In many ways, Mother India is the mother of us all.'

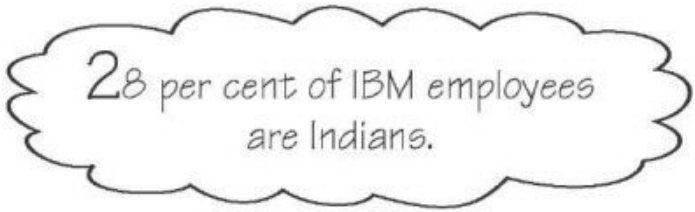
CURRENT FUN FACT



38 per cent of doctors in America are Indians.

12 per cent of scientists in America are Indians.





17 per cent of Intel employees are Indians.

13 per cent of Xerox employees are Indians.

RELIGIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS

India gave the world Hinduism; gave the world Buddhism; gave the world Jainism; gave the world Sikhism.

MORE FUN FACTS

Top Websites Started by Indians:

Infospace-top directory on the web.

Epinions-top review site.

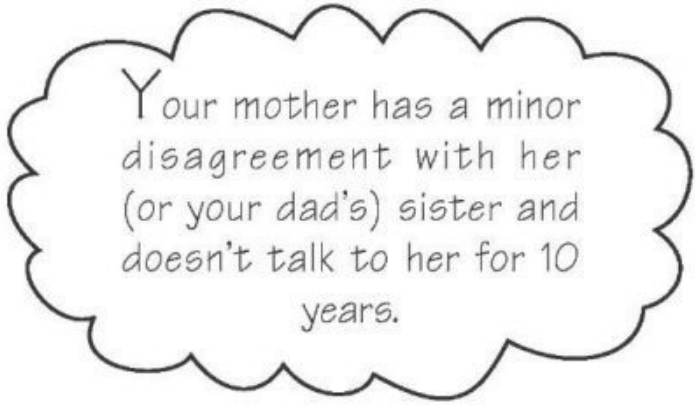
AskMe.com-one of top help sites.

Exodus-top hosting service in world.

Imandi.com-top reverse-marketing site.

FEW FUNNY FACTS BOYS-WITH APOLOGIES!

You have a 'Singer Brother' sewing machine at home.



You call an older person you've never met before 'uncle'.

You hide everything from your parents.

Your mother does everything for you if you are male.

You do all the housework and cooking if you are female.

Your relatives alone could populate a small city. Everyone is a family friend.

Everyone always calls you for help on homework.

You read law, medicine or engineering at university.

You know no one who has studied music.

You still came back home to live with your parents after you had finished college.

You like the meat well done.

You eat onions with everything.

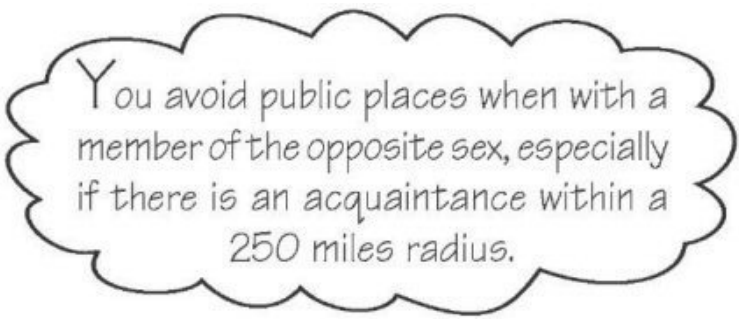
You use chilli sauce instead of tomato ketchup.

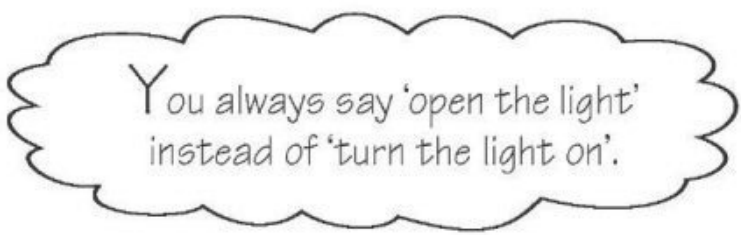
You fight over who pays the dinner bill.

You say you hate Indian films/songs but secretly watch/hear them with your parents.

You teach Westerners swearwords in your language.

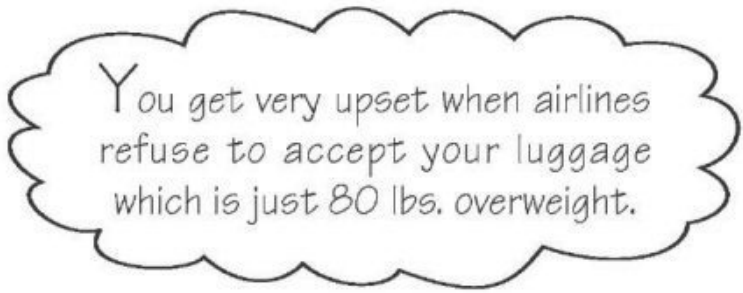
You order Indian food in your own language to impress the people you're with but the waiters don't understand you.


You avoid public places when with a member of the opposite sex, especially if there is an acquaintance within a 250 miles radius.

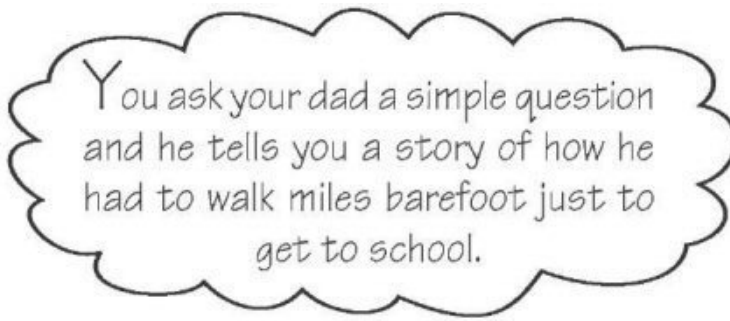


You secure your baggage with a rope.

You're walking out of customs with your trolley at the airport and you see all 25 members of your family who have come to pick you up.



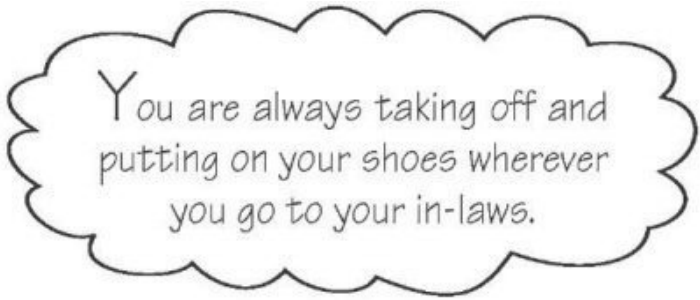
You go back to your parents' country and people treat you like a member of...the royal family.



FEMALES: WITH APOLOGIES!

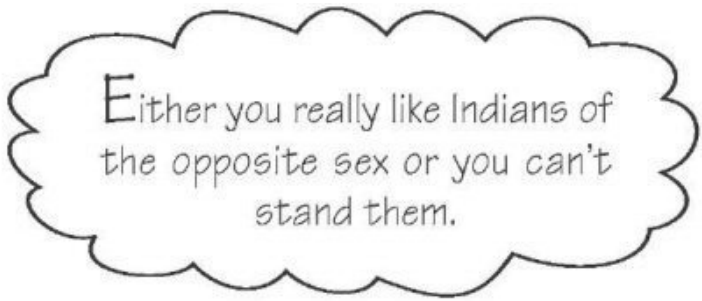
Your parents would get upset if you wore a cropped top baring your midriff...but wearing a sari is perfectly acceptable.

Your brother had no curfew while you had to be home at 11 p.m.



Your parents call all your friends 'beta' whether they are Indian or not.

Your parents are panicking if you turn 25 and you aren't married.

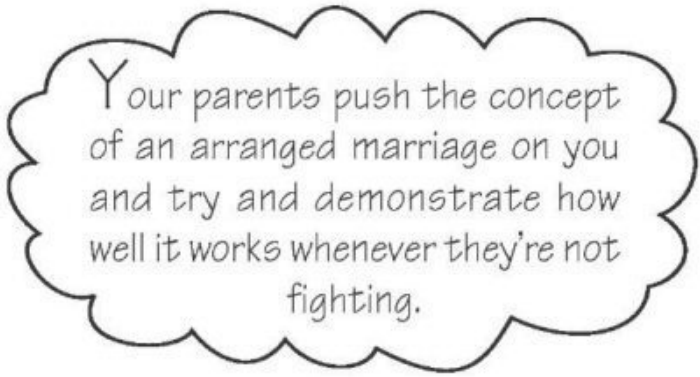


Your mother measures wealth in gold and diamonds.

A horoscope must decide your wedding date.

Your parents drink 6 cups of tea a day.

You have cousins you have never met, whose names you don't know, but who insist they're related to you, even though they bear no resemblance to... anyone you know.


Your parents push the concept of an arranged marriage on you and try and demonstrate how well it works whenever they're not fighting.

Your parents compare you to all of their friends' kids.

You notice that whenever you go to another Indian's house, your parents always talk about work and business.

The second you pull out of someone's driveway, your parents start talking...about them.

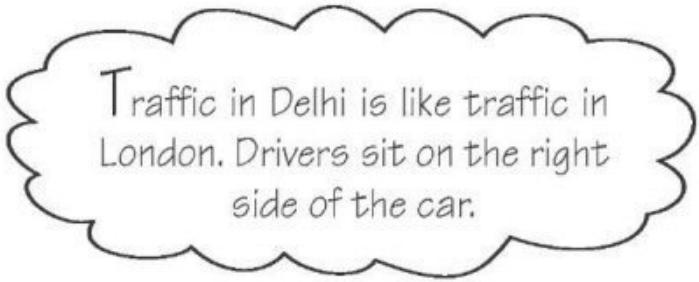
No one ever seems to call ahead of time to say they are coming over for a visit.

All this is in a lighter vein!

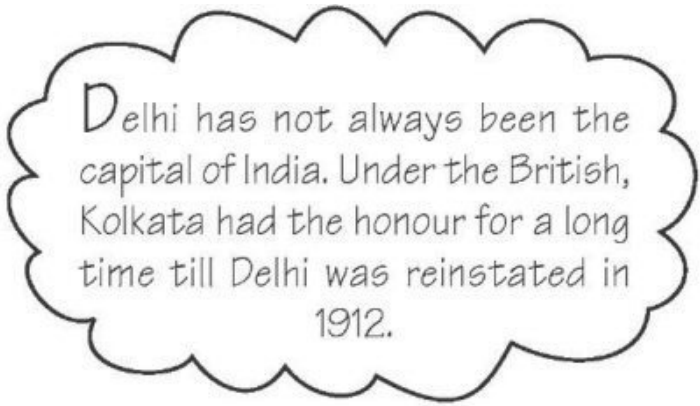
Weird Fact

Delhi has an International Toilet museum.

Khari Baoli is Asia's largest wholesale spice market. A must visit for the once-in-a-lifetime overdose of a spice cocktail high.



Three-wheeled contraptions called autorichshaws are a great way to see the city over short distances.


Delhi has not always been the capital of India. Under the British, Kolkata had the honour for a long time till Delhi was reinstated in 1912.

Delhi has a rail museum with steam-age behemoths.

FUN FACTS MUMBAI

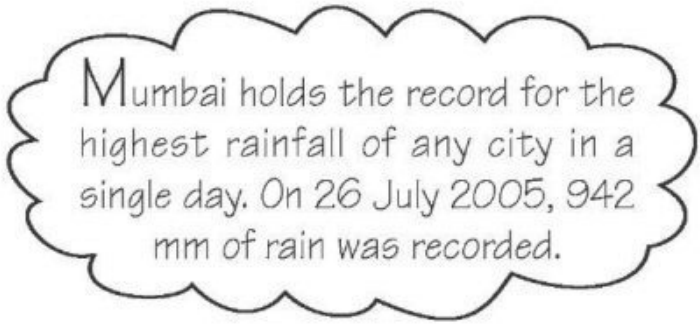
The Portuguese offered Mumbai (formerly known as Mumbai) as part of dowry to King Charles II of England, on his wedding to Princess Catherine de Braganza of Portugal in 1661.

Bollywood is the second-largest film producing state in the world.

By 2020 Mumbai will have 27 million people and will be the 2nd largest city in the world after Tokyo.

Mumbai handles 26 per cent of the domestic air traffic cargo and an average of 40 per cent of the international air cargo traffic in the country and about 25 per cent of the domestic and 38 per cent of the International air passenger traffic in the country.

The number of telephone connections in Mumbai is estimated to be approximately 2.31 million. Of the approximately 7 million cellular subscribers in India, 10 per cent of the subscribers are believed to be in Mumbai.



More than six million commuters travel on Mumbai's suburban rail network each day. During peak periods, carriages carry three times their maximum capacities, resulting in what the rail company calls a 'Super Dense Crush Load.'

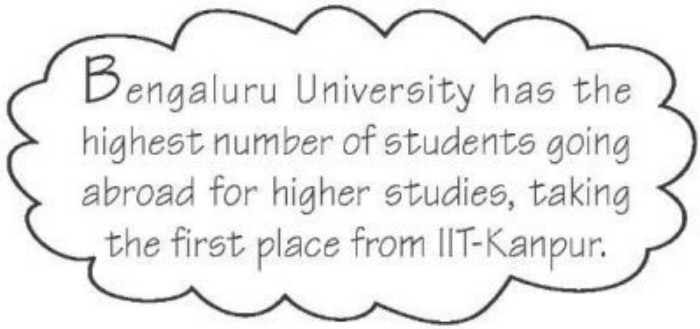
As of 2009, Mumbai was named an Alpha world city. Alpha world city is also called global city or world centre and refers to a specialized city deemed to be an important node point in the global economic system.

The name Mumbai is an eponym, derived from Mumbai or Maha-Amba—the name of the Koli goddess Mumbadevi—and Aai, 'mother' in Marathi.

FUN FACTS: BENGALURU

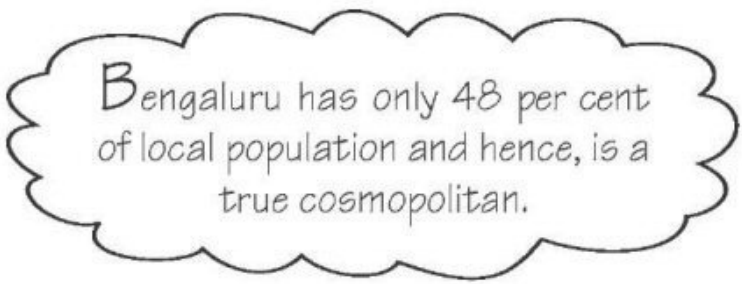
Bengaluru is called the silicon valley of India since it enjoys the

distinction of having the highest number of software companies in India -212, followed by Hyderabad - 108, Pune - 97.


Bengaluru University has the highest number of students going abroad for higher studies, taking the first place from IIT-Kanpur.

Bengaluru has 21 engineering colleges, which is the highest in the world in a given city. Bengaluru university has 57 engineering colleges affiliated to it, which is the highest in the world.

Bengaluru has produced the highest number of professionals in USA almost 60 per cent of the Indian population abroad is from Bengaluru (except Gulf).



Bengaluru is considered the fashion capital of the East comparable to Paris.

SIKHISM

World's 5th largest religion.

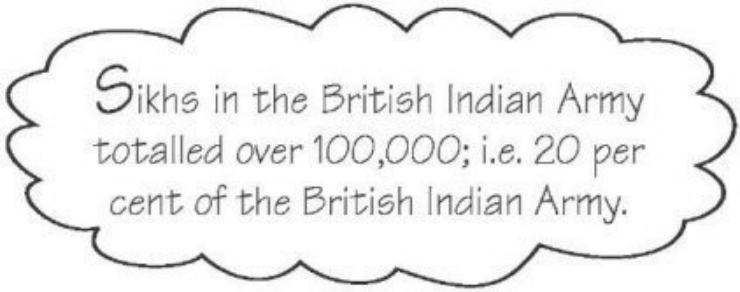
26 million followers worldwide.

Originated in India, over 500 years old.

Distinct religion having no links with Hinduism or Islam.

83,000 Sikh soldiers died during the two World wars.

Sikhs have lived in America since 1897.

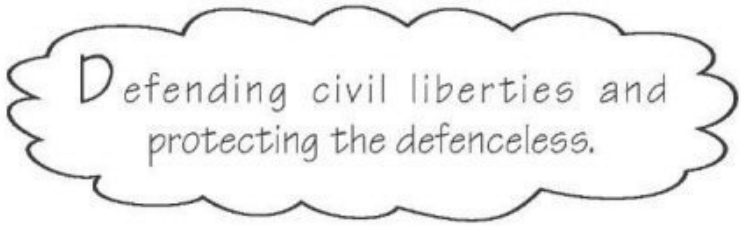


In the years up to 1945, 14 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Sikhs, a per capita record given the size of the Sikh Regiments.

SIKH BELIEFS

Freedom of speech, religion.

Justice and liberty for all.



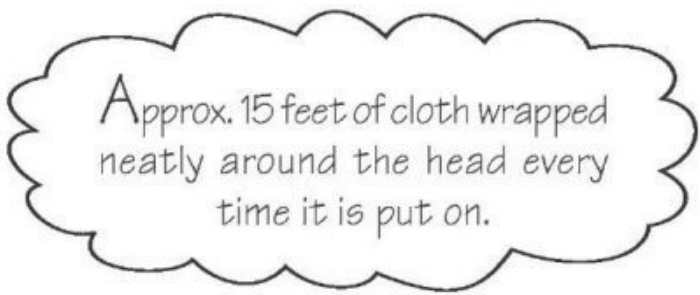
Tolerance and absolute equality of all people without regard to gender, race, caste or religion.

One God common to all.

Equal right for women.

SIKHS TURBANS

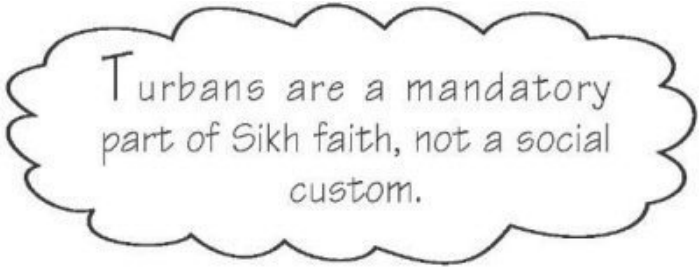
Sikhs use it to cover long, uncut hair and this provides their distinct identity.



Symbolizes discipline, integrity, humility, and spirituality.

A turban is not a hat. It cannot be casually taken on and off. It must

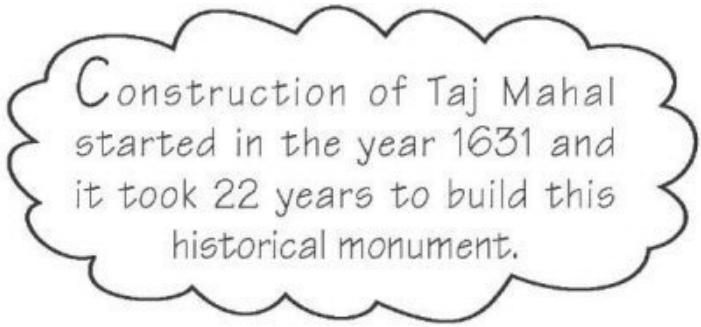
be carefully re-tied each time it is removed.



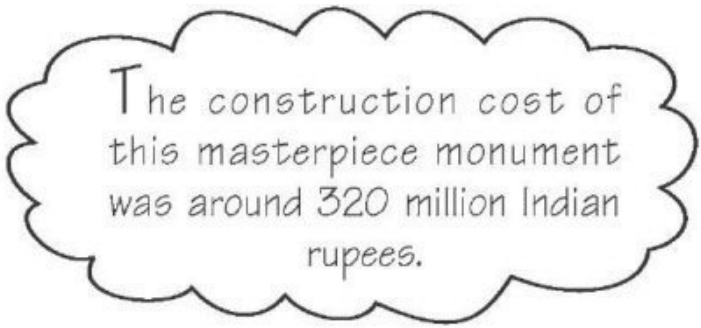
Sikhs feel humiliated if asked to remove their turban in public, as doing so exposes an intimate part of their body.

TAJ MAHAL

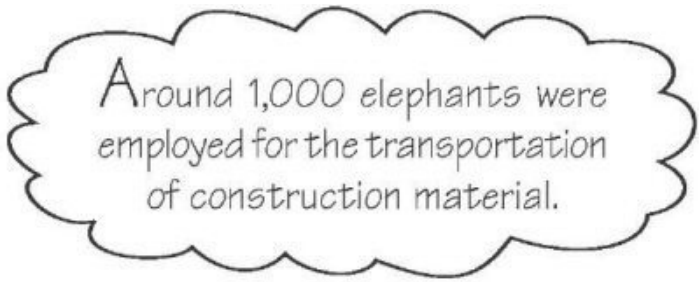
Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the loving memory of his beautiful wife Mumtaz Mahal.



The architecture of Taj Mahal is a combination of Persian, Islamic and Indian Architecture Style.

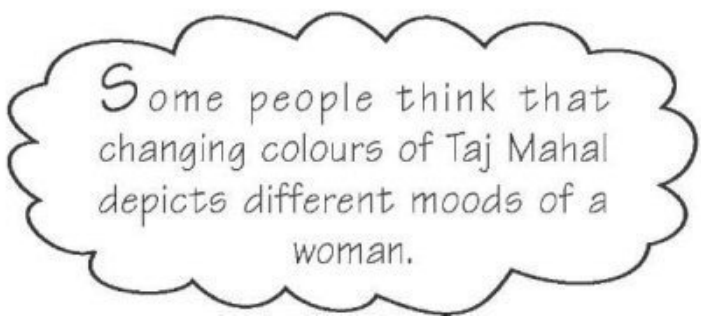


Around 20,000 people worked day and night for 22 years, Ustad Ahmad Lahauri was the architect of Taj Mahal.

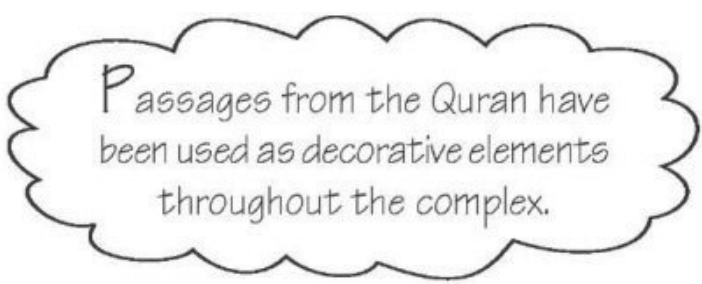


30 different variety of semi-precious and precious stones were used to make Taj Mahal more beautiful.

At different times of the day, Taj Mahal appears to be in a different colour.

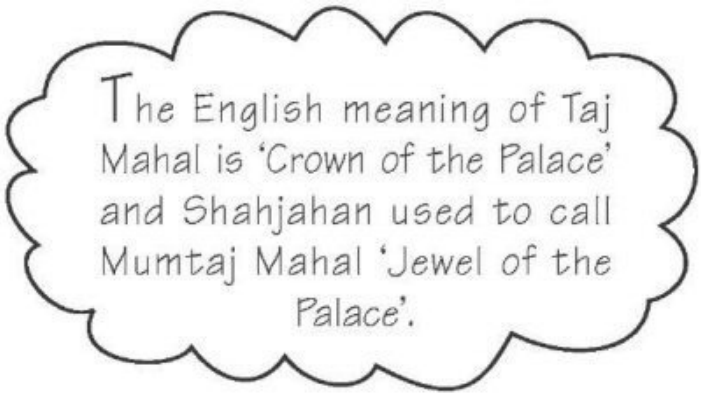


99 names of Allah can be found as calligraphic inscriptions on the sides of the actual tomb of Mumtaz Mahal.



Many types of marbles used in the construction of Taj Mahal were brought from many different states and countries including China,

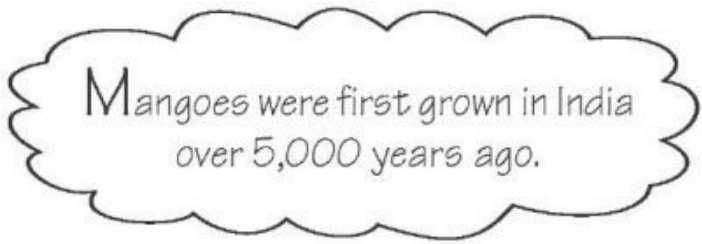
Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Arabia.



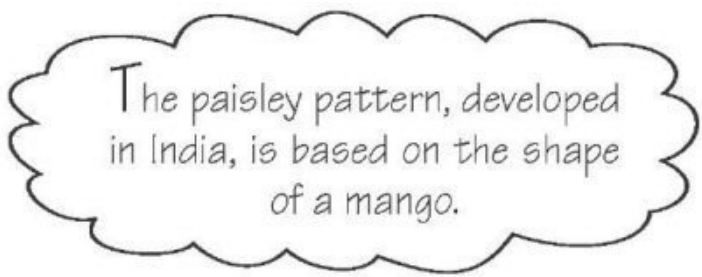
Taj Mahal: 'A tear drop on the cheeks of time' according to Tagore.

MANGO TALK: FUN FACTS

Mangoes are the most popular fruit in the world.

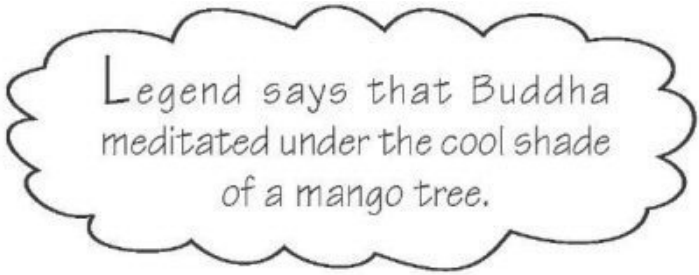


Mango seeds travelled with humans from Asia to the Middle East, East Africa and South America beginning around 300 or 400 AD.



The mango is a symbol of love in India, and a basket of mangoes is

considered a gesture of friendship.



Mangoes are related to cashews and pistachios.

The bark, leaves, skin and pit of the mango have been used in folk remedies for centuries.

MANGO NUTRITION

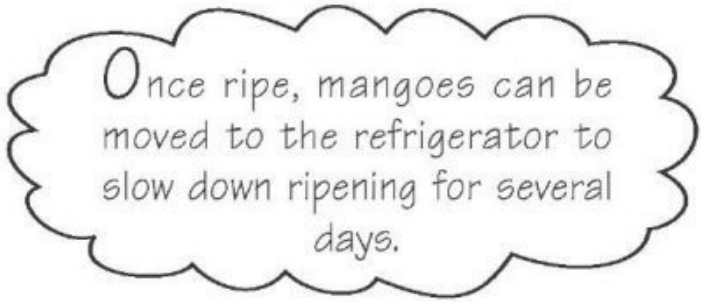
A one-cup serving of mangoes is just 100 calories.

Mango Selection and Ripening

Don't judge a mango by its colour – red does not mean ripe.

Squeeze gently to judge ripeness. A ripe mango will 'give' slightly and a firm mango will ripen at room temperature over a few days.

To speed up ripening, place mangoes in a paper bag at room temperature.

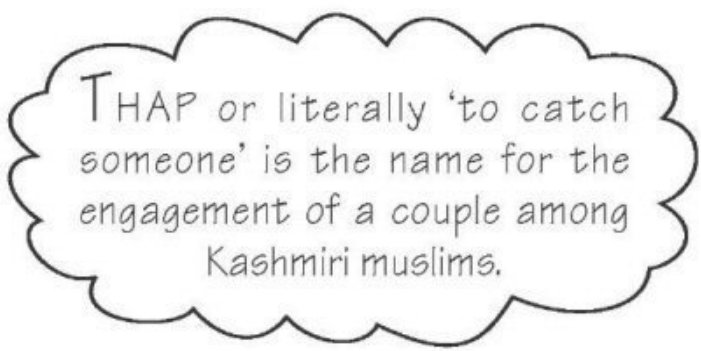


EATING MANGOES

Mangoes can be enjoyed with salt, lime juice or chilli powder for a unique flavour experience.

Mangoes have natural tenderizing properties, making them a perfect ingredient for marinades.

MORE POTPOURRI



The son of Anjana, Hanuman, got his jaw broken because he wanted

to devour the sun.

A biographical tribute *Abba, God's Greatest Gift to Us* is to sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan by his sons.

In a lighter vein NRI stands for Non-Reliable Indian.

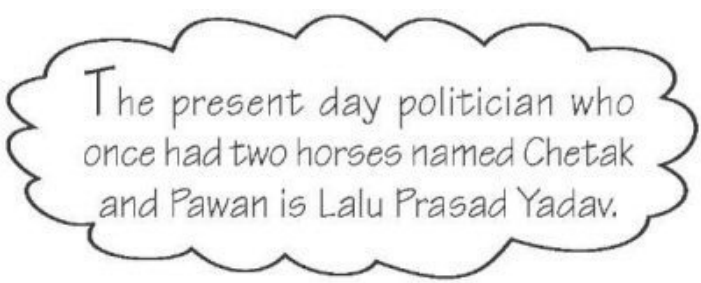
ATM in Indian college parlance stands for 'Aunty Trying to be Modern'.

The Indian lady who charged Satyajit Ray of 'exporting poverty' was Nargis Dutt, the actress.

Born Dileep Kumar, he later changed his name to become A.R. Rahman, the music director.

In the US, ABCD stands for *American Born Confused Desi.*

Leela Chitnis was the first actress to model for Lux.



Gudi Padwa is the New Year of Maharashtra.

Mary Evans was better known by her fans as Fearless Nadia.

In the Mahabharata, Shakuni used his father's thigh bone to make his dice.

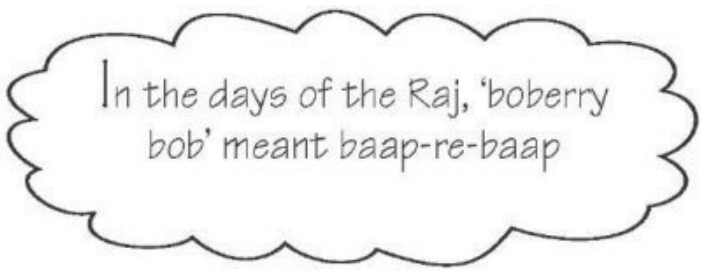
Pandit Ravi Shankar had a pet cat called Eton and a pet dove named Tweety.

In the days of the Raj a lemonadewallah meant a teetotaller.

Duggu is the nickname of actor Hritik Roshan; Gullu is the nickname of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan.

Bobby Kooka created Air India's Maharaja in 1938.

Shahrukh Khan was the first male actor to model for Lux.



According to legend, Lord Krishna had 16,108 fiancées.

In an Anglo-Indian home, a 'cat's lick' would mean a quick bath.

According to legend, an Indian married woman wears a round red bindi to distract someone from hypnotizing her.

Agni is said to have devoured his parents.

Agni is said to have seven tongues.

In the days of the Raj, the powder room of ladies was called a 'murgi khana'.

In Bengal a married woman is called a 'kapaal phaata'.

India is the largest producer of diamond jewellery.

STREET FOOD OF MUMBAI

Vada Pav is potato patties mashed with garlic, chillies and coriander dipped in chickpea flour, fried golden, then laid in 'pav' – a springy white bap that's well buttered, spread with coriander chutney and sprinkled with garlic and chilli powder.

Vendors poke a thumb into a crisp fried sphere, fill it with potato, chickpeas, onion and sprouted lentils, then dunk it into a sweet-and-sour mix of tamarind and jaggery, then a liquid blend of coriander, mint and garam masala-this is paani puri.

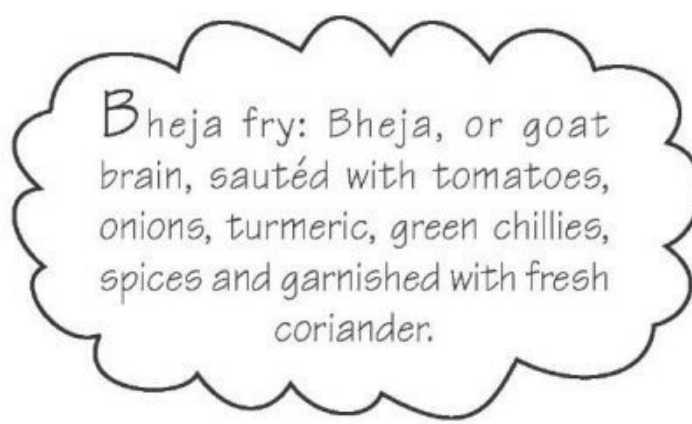
Slid off skewers, the meat wrapped in a steaming roomali roti – as thin and soft as a handkerchief – and topped with strips of fried onion is called chicken tikka.

Bhel puri is one of the most common all-day snacks: a crunchy, cold, sweet-and-sour mix of puffed rice, sev, chopped onion and potato, and tamarind chutney.

Baida roti is spiced meat—chicken or minced mutton, even bheja (brain)—and whipped eggs with masala-fied fried onions enveloped in a square shaped dough and pan fried. They are served with sliced onion rings and green chutney.

Batata Vada: This is made by mashing boiled potatoes with green chilies, ginger, garlic, lime juice, turmeric, and fresh coriander, then dipped in a besan (gram flour) batter and deep fried. It's served either with a green chutney or fried green chillies.

The Mumbai sandwich: Lavishly buttered white bread and thin slices of beetroot, boiled potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, onion rings, and mint chutney sandwiched between them. A toasted version steams up the vegetables inside and adds another dimension.


Bheja fry: Bheja, or goat brain, sautéd with tomatoes, onions, turmeric, green chillies, spices and garnished with fresh coriander.

Bombil, or Mumbai Duck, is a fish (and not a duck) found in plenty in the waters around Mumbai. Bombils are flattened, then dipped in a spice-filled besan (gram flour) batter and fried.

Bun maska: It is bun or gutli pao—a local bread that is unique to Mumbai—and it's crisp and hard and crumbly on the outside and soft inside. The Brun is then sliced and lashings of butter are applied lavishly. Some even sprinkle quite a bit of sugar.

Dhoklas or khummun are made from the fermented batter of chickpeas, steamed and then spiced with chillies and ginger and tempered with mustard seed.

Farsan, a broad term for savories encompassing sev and gathiya, are crisp deep-fried spiced gram flour creations in pasta-like shapes.

Falooda is vermicelli mixed with milk, almonds, pistachios, a bit of rose syrup and the key ingredient—sabza or basil seeds—topped up with two scoops of ice cream.

Gujarati thaali is a combo platter served on your table in unlimited quantities. Three types of farsan (fried snacky things with a plethora of chutneys). Two kinds of vegetables. Two kinds of lentils—dal and kadhi (hot and spicy yoghurt based dish). A basket of different rotis and puris (deep fried breads). Two kinds of rice. Two desserts. And mango pulp which the purists pour all over the plate.

Keema pao: Minced mutton cooked with onions, garlic, tomatoes, chillies and spices takes on many avatars here. In its original form, it is referred to as plain Keema. Topped with a crisply fried sunny side up egg, it is called kheema single fry. And scrambled with eggs, it is called ghotala.

Kolhapuri mutton: This mutton dish has its roots in Kolhapur, a city in the south of Maharashtra. It comes in two coconut-based gravy variations. The nuclear strength version is called Tambda Rassa (a red chili spiced extravaganza). And the milder version is called Pandhara Rassa (yoghurt, cashew nuts and raisin embellished). Both go well with either rotis or rice.

Kanda poha: This simple, easy to make snack is made with kanda (onions) and poha (flaked rice) mixed with chopped potatoes and green chillies, sometimes even peas. Tempered with mustard seeds and garnished with fresh coriander and a squeeze of lime, it lights up dull days.

Misal pao : From Pune, this rustic dish is made from a mix of curried sprouted lentils, topped with batata (potato) bhaji, poha (rice flakes), chivda, farsan, raw chopped onions and tomato. This hot and spicy dish is eaten with pao bread.

Modak: Modak is offered to Lord Ganesha because it is his favourite sweet. Wheat flour dough kneaded with milk, stuffed with grated coconut and mixed with sugar or jaggery. Shaped like a teardrop it is steamed or fried. Typically, 21 are made as an auspicious offering to the god and tons more for the rest of the family.

Mutton dhansak: Representative of Parsi cuisine; it is mutton cooked till tender in a dal laden with spices. And it is eaten with browned rice topped with deep fried onions, garnished with mutton kebabs and sprinkled with a crunchy mix of chopped raw onions, raw tomatoes and coriander.

Mutton sukke: Malvani-style mutton dish. Chunks of mutton on the bone marinated in a hot Malvani masala and fried with onions and garlic and red chillies until everything browns and the meat is tender. It can be eaten with chapattis or rice flour pancakes.

SOUTH INDIAN STREET FOOD

Samosa: Prepared with refined flour, these stuffed delicacies are served with sweet chutney and spicy chutney or with tomato ketchup. In Kerala, you get onion stuffed samosas, while in other South Indian states, a mix of potato and onions are offered.

Idli: Round, fluffy, soft idlis are a popular breakfast delicacy; idlis are made with rice and urad dal. Served with various chutneys and sambar, you may even get the idli podi if you are trying out this South Indian street food in Tamil Nadu.

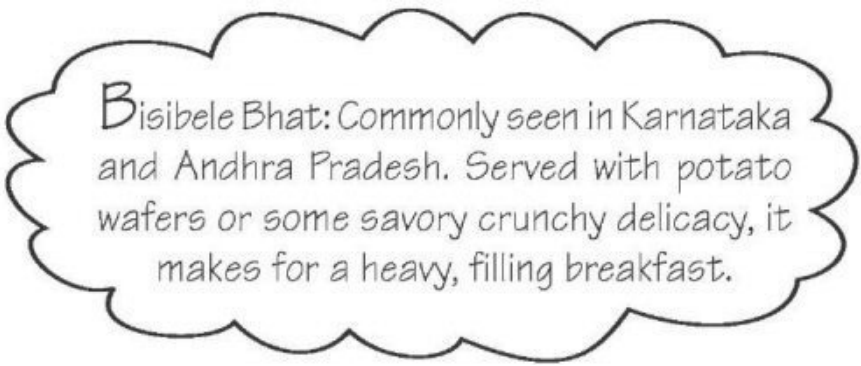
Vada: While medu vada is available commonly for breakfast, you will get masala vada as an evening snack. The former one is prepared using urad dal and flavoured with green chilli, black peppercorns, and onions, while gram dal and tuvar dal is used in the preparation of the latter.

Dosa: Dosas are South Indian pancakes made using sour rice dough. Low in calories and served with coconut chutney and steaming hot sambar, this delicacy is also available with a filling of spiced potato called masala dosa.

Bajji: This is a South Indian snack. Onions, bell peppers, potato, chili, raw banana, bread – these are some of the most popular variants available. These are deep-fried delights.

Puttu: A dish from Kerala prepared with rice and coconut, it is a breakfast choice. Served most commonly with a spicy dish made using brown chana, it can also be relished with bananas and papadam.

Kesari: A typical dessert item, this South Indian street food is also popular as a breakfast dish. Prepared with semolina or vermicelli, this is flavoured with cardamom for enriched taste.


Bisibele Bhat: Commonly seen in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Served with potato wafers or some savory crunchy delicacy, it makes for a heavy, filling breakfast.

Pongal: While the sweet version of pongal is relished as a dessert, you get savory version also. It tastes best when eaten hot with roasted gram dal and coconut chutney spiced with red chillies!

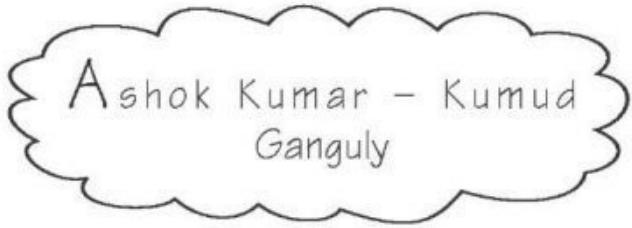
REEL NAMES AND REAL NAMES

Aamir Khan – Aamir Hussain Khan

Ajay Devgan – Vishal Devgan

Ajit – Hamid Ali Khan

Akshay Kumar – Rajiv Bhatia



Bobby Deol – Vijay Singh Deol

Dharmendra – Dharam Singh Deol

Dilip Kumar – Yusuf Khan

Govinda – Govinda Arun Ahuja

John Abraham – Farhan Abraham

Johnny Lever – Badruddin Qazi

Kamal Haasan- Alwarpettai Aandavar

Katrina Kaif – Kate Turquote

Kishore Kumar– Abhas Kumar Ganguly

Kumar Gaurav – Manoj Tulli

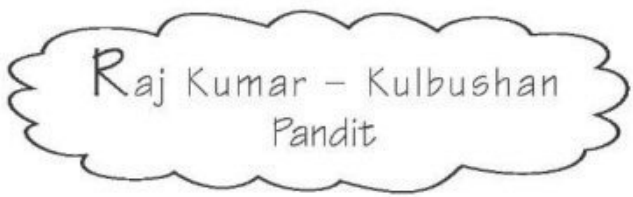
Lucky Ali – Maqsood Mehmood Ali

Madhubala – Mumtaz Jehan Begum Dehlavi

Mahima Chaudhry – Ritu Chaudhry

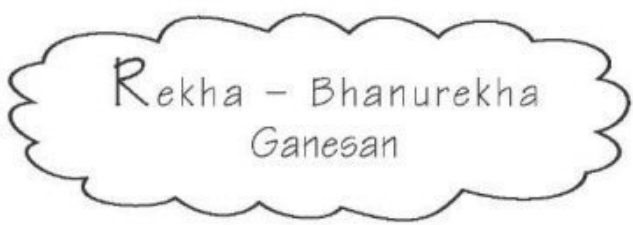
Mallika Sherawat – Reema Lamba

Manoj Kumar – Hare Krishna Goswami



Nana Patekar – Vishwanath Patekar

Rajesh Khanna – Jatin Khanna



Rajnikant – Sivaji Rao Gaekwad

Salman Khan- Abdul Rashid Salim Salman Khan

Sanjeev Kumar – Haribhai Jarivala

Shammi Kapoor – Shamsher Raj Kapoor

Shashi Kapoor – Balbir Raj Kapoor

Sunil Dutt – Balraj Dutt

Sunny Deol – Ajay Singh Deol

Sunny Leone – Karenjit Kaur Vohra (Leone—Lioness)

Tuntun : Uma Devi Khatri

INDIAN CRICKETER'S NICKNAMES

The Harayana Hurricane: Kapil Dev

The Wall: Rahul Dravid

Gauti: Gautam Gambhir

The Turbanator, Bhajji: Harbhajan Singh

Jumbo: Anil Kumble

Very Very Special: VVS Laxman

Bachcha: Parthiv Patel

Muscles: Venkatapathy Raju

Venu: Venugopal Rao

Sanu: Suresh Raina

Ishu, Lambu: Ishant Sharma

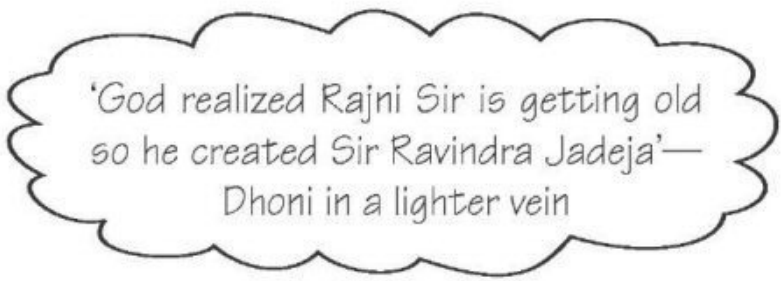
Shaz: Ravi Shastri

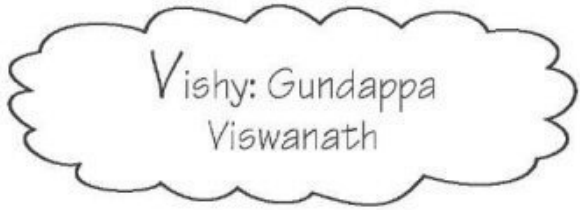
Sherry: Navjot Singh Sidhu

Babu, Mysore Express: Javagal Srinath

Captain cool, Mahi: M.S. Dhoni

Robbie: Robin Uthappa





Venkat: Venkataraghavan

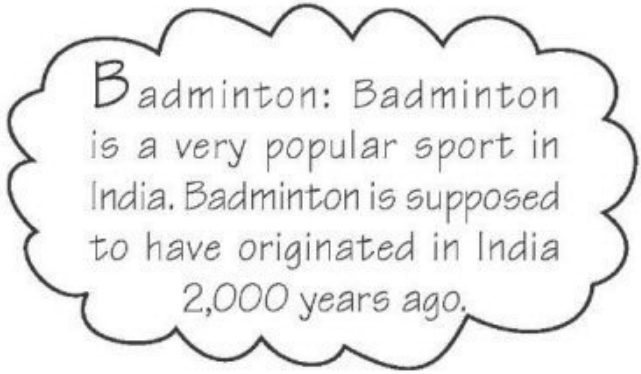
J.P.: Jai Yadav

GAMES FUN FACTS

Gilli-Danda: It is a sport played using one small stick called gilli and one long stick called danda like cricket with the ball being replaced by gilli. This game is generally played in villages of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana.

Kancha: It is played using marbles called kancha in India cities as well as in villages. The festival of Makar Sankranti is marked with competitions of this sport in various competitions.

Bandy: India has a Bandy team and Bandy Federation of India takes care of it. Its headquarters are in Himachal Pradesh. Bandy is generally played in northern India where there is generally snow and ice.



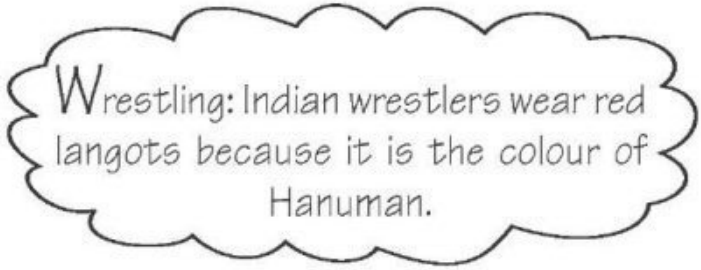
Kayaking: Indian flat kayakers are considered emerging powerhouses in the Asian circuit. Aside from professional flat water kayaking, there is very limited recreational kayaking. Indian tourists consider kayaking a one time activity and not a sport to be pursued.

Kabaddi : Kabaddi is one of the most popular sports in India played mostly in villages. India has taken part in four Asian Games Kabaddi events and won gold in all four of them.

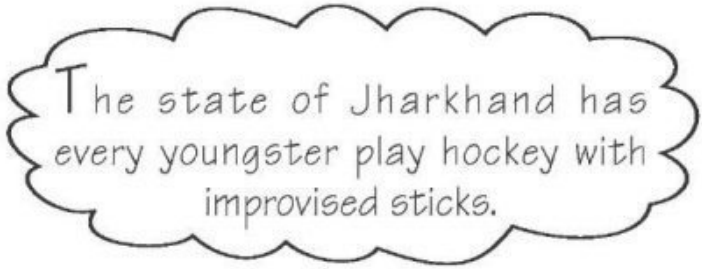
Rugby: Like other sports founded in England and introduced during the British Raj such as cricket, rugby union has a long history in India. The first recorded match was played on 25 December 1872 at CFC in Calcutta. Although low in profile as compared to cricket or field hockey, it is growing as some Indian sporting clubs are beginning to embrace the game.

Throwball: Throwball is also gaining in popularity in India as a competitive sport and Indian authorities were instrumental in organizing an Asian level, and later, world level association for the sport. The game is popularly played in schools, clubs, colleges

throughout Asian countries such as India, Korea, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, Pakistan and Nepal.



Volleyball: Volleyball is a sport played all over India, both in urban as well as rural India. It is a popular recreation sport. India is ranked 5th in Asia and 27th in the world in volleyball. Currently, an important problem for the sport is the lack of sponsors.



NICKNAME OF DIFFERENT INDIAN PLACES

Place	Nickname
Amritsar	Golden City
Ahmedabad	Manchester of India
Mumbai	City of Seven Islands
Cochin	Queen of Arabian Sea
Bengaluru	Garden City of India
Bengaluru	Silicon Valley of India
Jaipur	Pink City

Mumbai	Gateway of India
Hyderabad-Secunderabad	Twin City
Madurai	City of Festivals
Pune	Deccan Queen
Kolkata	City of Joy
Andhra Pradesh	Egg Bowl of Asia
Madhya Pradesh	Soya Region
Coimbatore	Manchester of the South
Lucknow	City of Nawabs
Cochin	Venice of the East
The Nilgiris	Blue Mountains
Mussoorie	Queen of the Mountains
Panipat	City of Weavers
Srinagar	City of Lakes
Jamshedpur/Tatanagar	Steel City of India
Jammu & Kashmir	Heaven of India
Ahmedabad	Boston of India
Kerala	Garden of spices of India
Kashmir	Switzerland of India

BOLLYWOOD

Hindi Songs and their Original English Numbers

Hindi Song: Haan Haan Yeh Pyaar Hai (*Dillagi*)

Music Director: Jatin-Lalit

Copied From: Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You (Frankie Valli)

Hindi Song: Koi Nahin Tere Jaisa (*Keemat*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Cotton Eye Joe (Rednex)

Hindi Song: Tumhe Kaise Main Bataaoon (*Dastak*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: The Windmills Of Your Mind (The Thomas Crown Affair)

Hindi Song: Paayal Meri Jaadu (*Rajkumar*)

Music Director: Laxmikant-Pyarelal

Copied From: Faith (George Michael)

Hindi Song: Jab Koi Baat Bigad Jaaye (*Jurm*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Five Hundred Miles (Peter, Paul, & Mary)

Hindi Song: Itna Na Mujhse Tu Pyar Badha (*Chhaya*)

Music Director: Salil Chowdhury

Copied From: Symphony No. 40 (Mozart)

Hindi Song: Tera Gussa (*Kareeb*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: The Happy Birthday Song

Hindi Song: Tu Woh Tu Hai (*Beqaabu*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Theme from The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Hindi Song: Suno Zara (*Bada Din*)

Music Director: Jatin-Lalit

Copied From: You Needed Me (Anne Murray)

Hindi Song: Ae Dil Hai Mushkil (*C.I.D.*)

Music Director: O.P. Nayyar

Copied From: Oh My Darling Clementine (Unknown source)

Hindi Song: Mil Gaya (*Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahin*)

Music Director: R.D. Burman

Copied From: Mama Mia (ABBA)

Hindi Song: Kya Kehna (*Kya Kehna*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Oh Carol (Paul Anka)

Hindi Song: Mere Rang Mein (*Maine Pyar Kiya*)

Music Director: Raam Laxman

Copied From: The Final Countdown (Europe)

Hindi Song: Aate Jaate (*Maine Pyar Kiya*)

Music Director: Raam Laxman

Copied From: I Just Called To Say I Love You (Stevie Wonder)

Hindi Song: Jhilmil Sitaaron Ne Kaha (*Khote Sikkey*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head (Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid)

Hindi Song: Chura Liya Hai Tumne (*Yaadon Ki Baraat*)

Music Director: R.D. Burman

Copied From: If It's Tuesday This Must Be Belgium (Walter Scharf)

Hindi Song: Teri Chaahat Ke Siva (*Jaanam*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: El Condor Pasa (Simon & Garfunkel)

Note: I also noticed that the starting of El Condor Pasa also sounds a lot like 'Taarein Hain Baaraati' from Malik's later album, *Virasat.*

Hindi Song: Dole Dole Dil (*Baazi*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Come September (Theme)

Hindi Song: Aisa Zakhm Diya (*Akele Hum Akele Tum*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Sweet Child In Time (Deep Purple)

Note: The opening and closing portions of the Hindi song are inspired.

Hindi Song: Dil Mera Churaaya Kyoon (*Akele Hum Akele Tum*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Last Christmas (Wham)

Hindi Song: Sun Sun Sun Barsaat Ki Dhun (*Sir*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Listen To The Sound Of The Rain (Jose Feliciano)

Hindi Song: Ladna Jhagadna (*Duplicate*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: A-Tisket A-Tasket (Children's song)

Hindi Song: Ek Sharaarat Hone Ko Hai (*Duplicate*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Slip And Slide (Laura Allen)

Hindi Song: Baraana De (*Insaaf*)

Music Director: Anand-Milind

Copied From: Paranue (Serapis Bey)

Hindi Song: Mujhe Neend Na Aaye (*Dil*)

Music Director: Anand-Milind

Copied From: Chunni Ud Ud Jaaye (Alaap - UK band)

Hindi Song: Koi Yahan Naache Naache (*Disco Dancer*)

Music Director: Bappi Lahiri

Copied From: Video Killed The Radio Star (The Buggles)

Hindi Song: Yeh Vaada Hai (*Raju Chacha*)

Music Director: Jatin-Lalit

Copied From: Day By Day (Godspell)

Hindi Song: Jaana Suno Hum (*Khamoshi*)

Music Director: Jatin-Lalit

Copied From: Bring The Wine (Paul Anka)

Hindi Song: Koi Mil Gaya (*Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*)

Music Director: Jatin-Lalit

Copied From: Take That Look Off Your Face (Song And Dance)

Hindi Song: Yunhi Kat Jaayega (*Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke*)

Music Director: Nadeem-Shravan

Copied From: Lovely Lady Of Arcadia (Demis Roussos)

Hindi Song: O Mere Sapnon Ka (*Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin*)

Music Director: Nadeem-Shravan

Copied From: Bachelor Boy (Cliff Richard)

Hindi Song: Pehli Baar Mile Hain (*Saajan*)

Music Director: Nadeem-Shravan

Copied From: Solitude Standing (Suzanne Vega)

Hindi Song: Haseena Gori Gori (*Tarazu*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: In The Summertime (Shaggy)

Hindi Song: Chaand Sitaare (*Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Voices (Vangelis)

Hindi Song: Badan Judaa Hote (*Koyla*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Conquest Of Paradise (Vangelis)

Hindi Song: Humko Pyaar Hai (*Moksha*)

Music Director: Rajesh Roshan

Copied From: Messages (Vangelis)

Hindi Song: Yeh Raaste Hain Pyaar Ke (Old)

Music Director: Ravi

Copied From: The Breeze And I (Al Stillman and Ernesto Lecuona)

Hindi Song: Jeevan Ke Safar Mein (*Munimji*)

Music Director: S.D. Burman

Copied From: The Mexican Hat Dance

Hindi Song: Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya (*Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*)

Music Director: Sandeep Chowta

Copied From: Exorcist II: The Heretic (Theme)

Hindi Song: Roundhe Hai (*Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*)

Music Director: W. Killar & Sandeep Chowta

Copied From: Vampire Hunters (Bram Stoker's Dracula)

Hindi Song: Kambakth Ishq (*Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*)

Music Director: Sandeep Chowta

Copied From: Eireann (Afro Celt Sound System)

Hindi Song: Yeh Pyaar Hai (*Indian*)

Music Director: Anand Raaj Anand

Copied From: Ojos Asi (Shakira)

Hindi Song: Gupt Gupt (*Gupt*)

Music Director: Viju Shah

Copied From: Deep Forest (Deep Forest)

Hindi Song: Babuji Dheere Chalna (Aar *Paar*)

Music Director: O.P. Nayyar

Copied From: Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps (Doris Day)

Hindi Song: Mehbooba Mehbooba (*Sholay*)

M usic Director: R.D. Burman

Copied From: Say You Love Me (Demis Roussos)

Hindi Song: Tumse Milke (*Parinda*)

Music Director: R.D. Burman

Copied From: When I Need You (Leo Sayer)

Hindi Song: Kaisa Tera Pyaar (*Love Story*)

Music Director: R.D. Burman

Copied From: I Have A Dream (ABBA)

Hindi Song: Aa Ab Laut Chalen (*Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai*)

Music Director: Shankar Jaikishan

Copied From: Ciao Ciao Bambina (Domenico Modugno)

Hindi Song: Tera Mujhse Hai Pehle (*Aa Gale Lag Jaa*)

Music Director: R.D. Burman

Copied From: The Yellow Rose Of Texas (Elvis Presley)

Hindi Song: Neela Dupatta Peela Suit (*Hameshaa*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: All I Wanna Say (Michael Jackson)

Hindi Song: Love Hua (*Jaanam Samjha Karo*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Angelo (Brotherhood of Man)

Hindi Song: Neend Churaayi Meri (*Ishq*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: Sending All My Love (Tolga)

Hindi Song: Kuch Kasmein (*Aankhen*)

Music Director: Jatin-Lalit

Copied From: Nights In White Satin (Moody Blues)

Hindi Song: I Was Made For Loving You (*Jaanam Samjha Karo*)

Music Director: Anu Malik

Copied From: I Was Made For Loving You (Kiss)

Hindi Song: Kaun Hai Jo Sapnon Mein Aaya (*Jhuk Gaya Aasmaan)*.

Music Director: Shankar Jaikishan

Copied From: Marguerita (Elvis Presley)

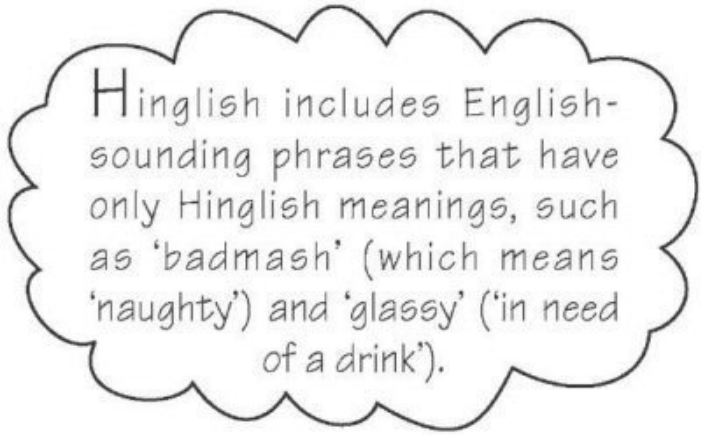
Korbo Lorbo Jeetbo - theme song for the Kolkota Knight Riders (KKR) composed by Vishal Shekhar seems inspired from 1970 Deep Purple track titled 'Black Night'.

HINGLISH

Hungry Kya?

A mix of Hindi (the official language of India) and English (an associate official language of India) that is spoken by upwards of

350 million people in urban areas of India. (India contains the largest English-speaking population in the world.)

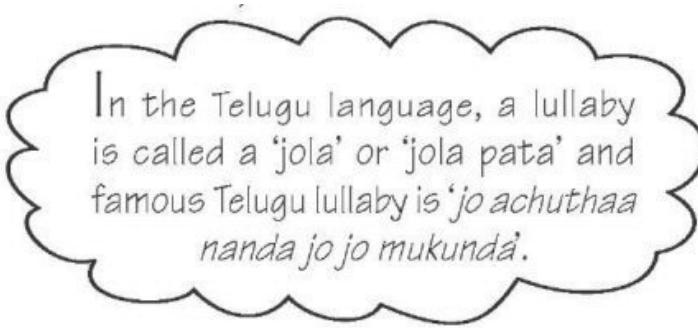

Hinglish includes English-sounding phrases that have only Hinglish meanings, such as 'badmash' (which means 'naughty') and 'glassy' ('in need of a drink').

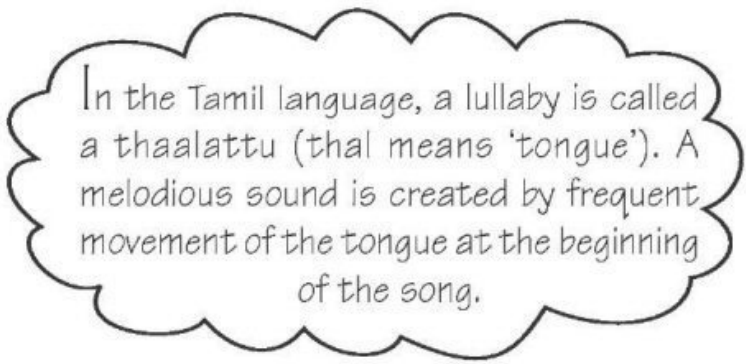
Babu English: Babu English is the much caricatured flowery language of some moderately educated clerks and others, who are less proficient in formal English than they realize.

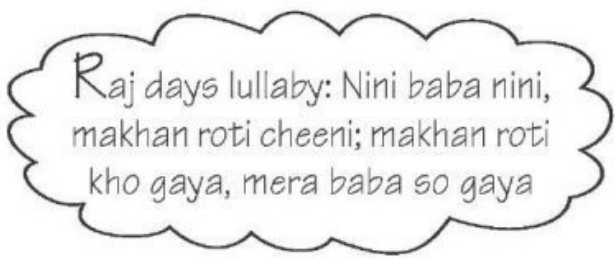
LULLABY

In Hindi and in many Indian languages, lullaby is called 'lori'. Mostly, lullabies are sung in folk languages. Lullabies have also been an integral part of Indian cinema. Many lullabies were written and composed in fifties.

In the Malayalam language,there is a rich collection of traditional lullabies known as tharaattu pattu One of the most famous is *Omanathinkal Kidavo* it was written and composed by poet lyricist Iravi Varman Thampi who is widely known as Irayimman Thampi. This lullaby was written for the Queen of Travancore to sing to her son, young prince Swathi Thirunal, who later became the king and a famous musician (composed many keertanas in raga Dheerasankarabharanam commonly known as Sankarabharanam).


In the Telugu language, a lullaby is called a 'jola' or 'jola pata' and famous Telugu lullaby is 'jo achuthaa nanda jo jo mukunda'.


In the Tamil language, a lullaby is called a thaalattu (thal means 'tongue'). A melodious sound is created by frequent movement of the tongue at the beginning of the song.



FUN FACT INDIAN TAGLINES

ANDHRA BANK—Much more to do, with YOU in focus.

BANK OF BARODA—India's International Bank

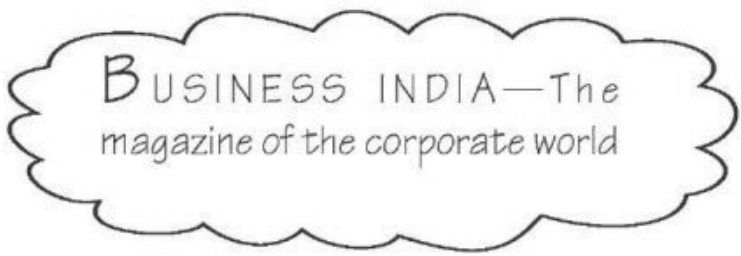
BANK OF RAJASTHAN—Dare to Dream

BIRLA MUTUAL FUND—The name inspires trust

BLOGGER.COM—Push Button Publishing

MUMBAI STOCK EXCHANGE (BSE)—The Edge is Efficiency

BPCL—Pure for Sure



BUSINESS TODAY—For Managing Tomorrow

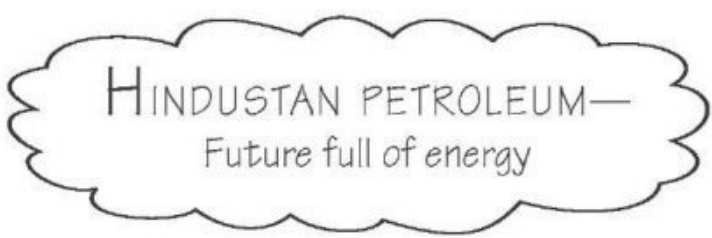
BUSINESS WORLD—Play the Game

CNBC or NBC—Profit from it or Must see TV

DLF—Building INDIA

DR. REDDY'S LABORATORIES—Life. Research. Hope

HINDUSTAN TIMES—The Name India trusts for News.



IBP—Pure bhi. Poora bhi.

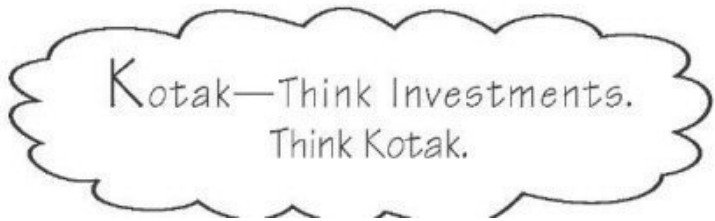
ICICI Bank—Hum Hain Na

IOCL—Bringing Energy to Life

JET AIRWAYS—The Joy of Flying

JVC—The Perfect Experience

KINGFISHER AIRLINES—Fly the Good Times



LG—Life's Good

MARUTI SX4—Men are Back

MRF—Tyres with Muscle

RAYMOND—A Complete Man

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED—Growth is Life

SAHARA—Emotionally Yours

SBI—

TATA INDICA—Even More Car per Car

THE ECONOMIC TIMES—The Power of Knowledge

THE INDIAN EXPRESS—Journalism of Courage

TIMESJOBS.COM—'If you have a reason, we have the job'

UNION BANK OF INDIA—Good People to Bank With

VIDEOCON—The Indian Multinational

VIZAG STEEL—Pride of Steel

WIPRO—Applying Thought

FUN FACTS CINEMA

In the Oxford Dictionary, the word Bollywood is defined as, 'a name for the Indian popular film industry, based in Mumbai.'

While Bollywood made its first movie in 1899, Hollywood's first movie was released in 1907 which makes Bollywood older than Hollywood.

1930: First silent film released made by Dadasaheb Phalke called *Raja Harishchandra.* The heroine in the film was not a female but a young boy called Salunke, who acted as Taramati.

1931: First film with sound released. It was *Alam Ara* by Ardeshir Irani.

The first air-conditioned cinema theatre in the country-Regal cinema Mumbai.

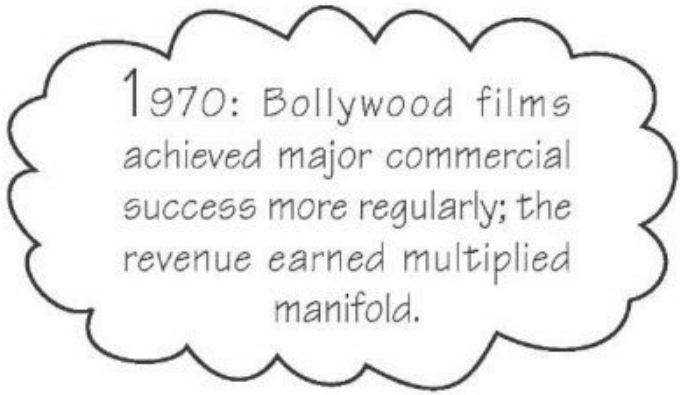
1946: *Neecha Nagar* by Chetan Anand awarded the Grand Prix du Festival International du Film (Best Film) award at the first Cannes Film Festival.

1951: The Central Board of Film Censors was formed. Film Federation of India was also launched in the same year.

1953: *Do Bigha Zameen* directed by Bimal Roy was released. It was the first film to win Filmare Best Film award.

1955: Satyajit Ray's classic *Pather Panchali* released. The film won the National Film Award for Best Film that year; it also won the Best Human Documentary award at the 9th Cannes Film Festival.

1957: Mehboob Khan's epic film *Mother India* released. The film was India's first submission for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1958 and was chosen as one of the five nominations for the category.



1961: Hrishikesh Mukherjee's *Anuradha* gets nominated for the Golden Bear award at the Berlin International Film Festival.

1969: Rajesh Khanna starrer *Aradhana* releases. The film went on to become a cult film making Rajesh Khanna an overnight superstar.

1982: Fashion Designer Bhanu Athaiya becomes the first Indian to win an Oscar for the film *Gandhi,* by winning the Best Costume Design award.

1987: *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* releases. A new chocolate boy called Aamir Khan sweeps the nation with his charm.

1989: Salman Khan becomes an overnight success as Prem in *Maine Pyar Kiya.*

1992: Honorary Oscar for Lifetime Achievement awarded to Satyajit Ray
1993: Shah Rukh Khan plays Juhi Chawla's psycho lover in Yash Chopra's Darr.

1994: *Hum Aapke Hain Kaun releases*

1995: Aditya Chopra's directorial debut *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* breaks all records and goes on to become an all time blockbuster.

2000: Rakesh Roshan launches his son Hrithik in *Kaho Na Pyaar Hai.* A superstar is born.

2001: Aamir Khan-starrer *Lagaan* gets nominated for an Oscar but does not win.

2004: *Dhoom* became the first action movie packed with Hollywood-like stunts.

2005: Amitabh Bachchan kisses a much younger Rani Mukerji on screen.

DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARDEES

Year	Recipient	Awarded as
1969	Devika Rani Chaudhuri Roerich	Actress
1970	B. N. Sircar	Producer
1971	Prithviraj Kapoor	Actor (Awarded posthumously)

1972	Pankaj Mullick	Music Director
1973	Ruby Myers (Sulochana)	Actress
1974	Bommireddy Narasimha Reddy	Director
1975	Dhirendranath Ganguly	Actor, Director
1976	Kanan Devi	Actress
1977	Nitin Bose	Cinematographer, Director, Screenwriter
1978	Raichand Boral	Music Director, Director
1979	Sohrab Modi	Actor, Director, Producer
1980	Paidi Jairaj	Actor, Director
1981	Naushad	Music Director
1982	L.V. Prasad	Actor, Director, Producer
1983	Durga Khote	Actress
1984	Satyajit Ray	Director
1985	V. Shantaram	Actor, Director, Producer
1986	Bommireddy Nagi Reddy	Producer
1987	Raj Kapoor	Actor, Director, Producer

1988	Ashok Kumar	Actor
1989	Lata Mangeshkar	Playback Singer
1990	Akkineni Nageswara Rao	Actor
1991	Bhalji Pendharkar	Director, Producer, Screenwriter
1992	Bhupen Hazarika	Musician, Singer, Poet, Film-maker, Lyricist
1993	Majrooh Sultanpuri	Lyricist
1994	Dilip Kumar	Actor
1995	Rajkumar	Actor, Singer
1996	Sivaji Ganesan	Actor
1997	Pradeep	Lyricist
1998	B.R. Chopra	Director, Producer
1999	Hrishikesh Mukherjee	Director
2000	Asha Bhosle	Playback Singer
2001	Yash Chopra	Director, Producer
2002	Dev Anand	Actor, Director, Producer
2003	Mrinal Sen	Director
2004	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Director
2005	Shyam Benegal	Director
2006	Tapan Sinha	Director

2007	Manna Dey	Playback Singer
2008	V.K. Murthy	Cinematographer
2009	D. Ramanaidu	Producer, Director
2010	K. Balachander	Director
2011	Soumitra Chatterjee	Actor
2012	Pran	Actor

MORE FACTS……

7 July 1896 First cinema show in India at the Watson Hotel in Mumbai.

1897 Save Dada films first Indian documentary

1898 Prof Stevenson brings 'first bioscope' to Calcutta at the Star Theatre.

1898 The first short film in India, A *Dancing Scene,* directed by Hiralal Sen.

1907 The first cinema hall 'Elphinstone Picture Palace' in India built by J.F. Madan in Calcutta.

18 May 1912 *Shree Pundalik* became the first theatrical film released in India. Dadasaheb Torne was the maker of the film.

1912 *Raja Harishchandra* was the first Indian feature film produced by Dadasaheb Phalke.

3 May 1913 *Raja Harishchandra* was released on at Coronation Cinematograph, Mumbai.